CDXC
CHILTERN DX CLUB
The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

March 1996 CDXC - The UK DX Foundation Issue 100

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 7th (LATE NEWS 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

"The aim of the Club is to promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

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The *CHALLENGER* is built to withstand long periods of operation at full power for the serious DX-er or Contest person. The amplifier uses a pair of Eimac 3CX 800 A7 triodes which are modern hi-gain ceramic valves with excellent IMD and harmonic rejection. The amplifier has tuned input as well as tuned output. All harmonics are at least 50 dB down with the amplifier at full power.

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Peter Rodmell G3ZF

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EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Welcome to a rather belated Issue 100 of the CDXC NewsLetter. I apologise for the delay, which was caused by a combination of a two week business trip to the USA, Picketts Lock, and then a few days suffering from some sort of viral infection. I am indebted to Bren, G4DYO, who took on the task of collecting and dealing with contributions to the NewsLetter in my absence. This was a big help to me, and the NewsLetter would undoubtedly have been later still without Bren's help. The larger than usual number of pictures in this issue are in no small way attributable to Bren's enthusiasm and hard work, coupled with his recent acquisition of a new PC and scanner!

The NewsLetter has come a long way since the first issue was published (by G4DYO) on October 6th, 1983. In those days, the circulation list was under twenty copies, each copy being individually printed on a dot matrix printer! Initially, the NewsLetter was just two pages, and issued every two-three weeks. Its format was very much along the lines of a DX bulletin, with much of the space devoted to forthcoming DX activity. Bren edited the first 41 issues, issue 41 appearing on February 7th, 1986, by which time it had grown to around twelve A4 pages. The next editor was Don Field, G3XTT, who continued as Editor until May 1990. Under Don's editorship, the NewsLetter was published in its current A5 format, and was published as today, six times per year, and membership of CDXC had grown to 121! Steve Telenius Lowe, G4JVG took over as Editor with issue 68, and continued until he was posted to P2 land, where he operated as P29DX. Don G3XTT temporarily filled the gap after Steve QSYd to P2, and then Andrew Shaw, G0HSD took over, with issue 74. I became Editor July 1993 with issue 84, and here we are today with issue 100, with the NewsLetter size now regularly 50-60 or

more pages.

However, it is with some regret that I must advise members that I shall be unable to continue as Editor after the end of the current membership year. This is mainly due to increasing demands on my time from the salt mine (I have recently changed my job within the company), and I am finding it increasingly difficult to devote time on a regular basis to the editing of this NewsLetter. During my time as Editor, membership of CDXC has more than doubled, and many more members now have access to the appropriate PC technology, so I do hope that it won't be too difficult to find someone who is willing to take over from me. Anyone who wishes to volunteer should contact myself, G3NUG, or G0HXN. I will of course, be only too pleased to discuss what is involved.

The AGM this year will be held on Saturday July 6th. There will also be a short Extraordinary General Meeting on the same day at which the Committee wishes to gain acceptance of the revised constitution (a draft of which can be found at the end of this issue of the NewsLetter). Neville, G3NUG, as Chairman, promises that both meetings will be very short, so that we can maximise the social side of the day - which Neville and Trish have again generously agreed to host at their home. Those who attended last year had a thoroughly enjoyable day, so please put the date in your diary now!

Talking of social events, the annual CDXC Dinner was held at the Waterloo Hotel in Crowthorne on Saturday March 2nd. This turned out to be an excellent venue - well done and thanks to David, G0HXN for organising it - and was our best attended dinner to date. Members attending were: G4DYO + XYL, G4OTY, G3XTT + XYL, G3NUG + XYL, G0KJP + 1, G3PJT + XYL, G3PMR + XYL, G3KWK, G3SJX + XYL, G3WGV, G3IZD, G3OZF + XYL, G4PFF + XYL, G3CAQ + XYL, G4IUF + XYL, G3ZAY, G0LMX, G0HXN + XYL, G3COJ + XYL, G4TSH, G0OPB, G0ORH + XYL. Roger, G3KMA and his XYL, were unable to attend as the date clashed with the marriage of their daughter - family has to come before radio sometimes! Our thanks are due to Barry, G4RKO, who donated two raffle prizes on behalf of Yaesu UK - a desk microphone and a pair of stereo headphones. Our thanks also go to Vincent, G0LMX, who gave a most interesting presentation on last Autumn's Easter Island DXpedition, and showed many excellent slides, with a good balance between radio and non-radio topics!

Belated congratulations are due to CDXC member Fred Laun, K3ZO, who, at the FOC Dinner last October, was awarded the G3FXB Al Slater Memorial Trophy, recognising his many years service and achievement in amateur radio. Fred travelled extensively during his career with the US Government, and made great contributions to establishing and developing amateur radio in a number of countries. Fred is also, of course, an outstanding DXer and contester.

Readers will note elsewhere in this issue the statement made by DXCC regarding Romeo Stepanenko's status in respect of the DXCC programme. Also in this issue is an article on this subject by Jim Smith, VK9NS. I have received a letter from John Clayton, G4PDQ, suggesting that CDXC should try to recover the funding given to Romeo's Myanmar operation (We donated £285 in May 1992). The Committee has discussed this matter and concluded that it would be pointless trying to recover the donation, although the Committee does, of cause, regret the situation.

That's my say for another issue - see you at the AGM/EGM/Social. Thanks to all those who said hello at Picketts Lock. My grateful thanks, as always, to the authors of all articles, and also to G3NUG, G3WGV, G3RZP, G3SXW, G3EZZ, G3KWK, G3TXF, G4DYO, G4PDQ, G4ZVJ, Focus, OPDX, DXNS.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT
Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

This has been quite a busy period for your Committee and for yours truly!

We now have a new Prospectus, a copy of which is enclosed with this Newsletter. I hope Members like it and that it sells the Club well. There are still large numbers of keen DXers in the British Isles who are not CDXC Members. Could I please ask every Member to seek out a friend, a keen DXer, who is not a Member of CDXC. Hand over the enclosed Prospectus and try and persuade him or her to join our Club. We really do need to increase our membership fee income if we are going to be able to fund the inevitable increase in DXpeditions. These should soon come about as a result of the forthcoming upturn in the sunspot cycle. Just one new Member for every existing Member -- now there's a target! Our thanks to Bren G4DYO for the sterling work he's done on preparing the Prospectus and for his contribution to our funds.

The Committee has also redrafted the CDXC Constitution because the old Constitution was somewhat dated. The new draft Constitution, which is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter, is based on the RSGB model Constitution. The Committee welcomes feedback on this draft. We plan to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting after this years' Annual General Meeting to approve the new Constitution. Thanks to Dave G0HXN, our Secretary, for his work on the draft.

There is one point in the Constitution that I would like to draw to Members' attention as it affects me personally. Under the old Constitution the Chairman could not stay in post for more than two years. He could be re-elected after a period of one year. Of course, the Chairman, as with all Committee members, stands for election every year at the AGM. Your Committee proposes to delete this "two year" clause but the clause regarding the re-election of all Committee Members each year remains unchanged.

By the time of the AGM, I will have been Chairman for two years. I have told the Committee that I would be happy to be Chairman for another year if this is supported by Members. However, if anyone else, an active DXer, would like to take over, I would be only too happy to stand down and to support a new Chairman. There are plenty of other radio interests with which I am involved including the RSGB HF Committee, the Convention Organising Committee and IOTA apart from being quite active on the HF bands. So, if anyone else is interested in becoming Chairman, please do get in touch.

Alan G3PMR has advised the Committee that, due to business pressures and after four years on the Committee, (three years of editing the Newsletter), he wishes to hand over the Editorship. Taking over this role will be no easy task. Alan has done an outstanding job in building up the Newsletter. Let's hear from Members who may be interested. Why not give Alan a call for a thorough briefing on what's involved?

I am hopeful that we can persuade Alan to stay on the Committee in some other capacity. Incidentally, under the Constitution, the Newsletter Editor has the right to be a full member of the Committee. However, the Editor does not have to exercise that right if working on the Committee is not attractive for some reason.

This year's Annual General Meeting and the Extraordinary General Meeting will take place on Saturday, 6 July. This will again be combined with our Summer Social and will be at our home here at Further Felden. Trish and I extend our invitation to all Members to our home on 6 July and we hope that, as last year, we will be blessed with the same good weather.

Planning for 1996 RSGB International HF and IOTA Convention is well on the way. These dates are 4-6 October 1996. This was the only date available at the Beaumont and we know that it clashes with the FOC Dinner. In order to overcome this problem, the Convention DX Dinner will be on the Friday evening. There will be a sit down buffet on the Saturday evening (this is the evening of the FOC Dinner). In order to avoid clashes in future years, the HF and IOTA Convention will, in future, always be on the second weekend of September (the first weekend is SSB Field Day). The Beaumont have confirmed these dates.

Colin G3PSM, HFC Chairman, is also chairing the Organising Committee this year. We have already identified over 20 different talks and hope to have a programme finalised by early April. RSGB HQ are preparing a mailing list including UK HF DXers and contesters. We plan to mail the programme and booking forms in April. Early booking is advisable. There should be large numbers from abroad as this event is the main IOTA event of 1996. CDXC Members will receive a copy of the programme and booking form with the May Newsletter that should be circulated in the first week of May.

I would like to make an appeal for assistance with the organisation of the Convention -- there is always much to do prior to the event and over the Convention weekend. Please get in touch with Colin G3PSM or myself if you can help us in some way.

This month has also seen some very important developments with the IOTA Programme. IOTA enjoyed its 30th Birthday in 1994 and, in its early years under Geoff Watts and subsequently under Roger's (G3KMA) guidance, enjoyed steady growth and increasing popularity.

By 1993, IOTA turnover comprising mainly Directory sales and fees for awards reached £4000.00. Last year, the IOTA turnover reached £25,000.00! This is due to the excellent support provided by the IOTA community, IOTA Committee members, Checkpoints and Country Assistants. Overseas CDXC Members Mauro I1JQJ and Dewitt W4BAA have both been heavily involved.

The London team started to work together in early 1993. This team, (all CDXC Members) comprising Henry G3GIQ, Roger G3KMA, Bob G3PJT, Martin G3ZAY and myself, had a very significant impact on the IOTA Programme. The team achieved the following:

- Significantly improved the financial position of IOTA
- Arranged the Sponsorship deal with Yaesu
- Prepared the IOTA Development Plan
- Enhanced the marketing of the Programme
- Redeveloped the computer system and developed IOTAMEM (in conjunction with CDXC Member John G3WGV who did all the programming)
- Upgraded the Directory and produced the 1994 Anniversary Booklet
- Initiated a number of major drives in Japan
- Promulgated new operating standards
- Gained a large increase in the number of Programme participants.

This increase in participants was a very pleasing result, particularly when achieved at the bottom of the sun-spot cycle. There is huge potential for IOTA as conditions improve. Of course, this growth placed huge and unreasonable burdens on the volunteer

team lead by Roger, G3KMA. Discussions were held with the RSGB to see what could be done. The result (see RSGB Press Bulletin on Page. 57) is that the Society wishes to give full recognition to IOTA and to establish the IOTA Committee as a Full Committee of the Society. The Society will in future handle all IOTA administration. The addresses for IOTA QSL checking and award applications are unchanged and all UK Checkpoints and Country Assistants remain in place. These new arrangements will free up members of the new IOTA Committee to concentrate on strategic and technical matters. Roger has been appointed RSGB IOTA Manager. Eva Telenius-Lowe has been appointed RSGB HQ IOTA Co-ordinator.

These are very important developments for IOTA. They will bring significant benefits to the Programme and to the Society. I will personally be working very closely with the HQ staff to ensure a smooth transition.

JOTTINGS BY THE SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

Well, by the time you read this the annual CDXC dinner will be over, and hopefully it will have been a great success. At time of writing there are some 39 places booked with a goodly few staying the night here in rural Berkshire. Quite a few are travelling from the other ends of the country - it is always nice to meet members face to face rather than by telephone/radio/cluster.

Having just returned from a sunny Cornwall whilst everybody was up to their knees in snow and ice I was quite amazed to find that there were so few using the SI (St. Ives) repeater, over the week that I was there I put out many calls during the day and evening to have no replies at all. According to the CallBook there are over 700 licensed amateurs in Cornwall , I wonder where they all were?

The first morning there (0530 hrs) we were privileged to witness the launching of the St. Ives Lifeboat. Blasted into wakefulness by the maroons, I turned on my FT23 R which goes up to 156 MHz and listened whilst the boat was launched in the most terrible sea I have seen, with the waves whipped up by gale force winds (Force 9). Falmouth Coastguard was amazingly loud, as was the helicopter from the Fleet Air Arm at Culdrose (Nr. Helston). How they ever launched a helicopter in those winds was just mind boggling. We watched entranced as the tiny lifeboat edged its way out of the harbour to meet the full force of the wind and waves. They were on their way some 20 miles out NNW from St Ives where a Belgian fishing boat was in distress. Two Naval frigates, a Dutch and a Maltese cargo boat also offered their help, and steamed toward the scene. What I found quite strange was the fact that although channel 16 is designated as the emergency channel, and there was a full blown rescue underway why is it that there is always some idiot who wants to act as a "policeman". This time another ship called up to tell everybody that this was the emergency channel and should be kept clear.(!) Needless to say Falmouth didn't rise to the bait, but did ask the "operator" his callsign, which he gave. I would be interested to see if his licence was revoked. We followed the rescue for the next hour and happily all four fishermen were rescued. At same time whilst I was in the area the trial in Bristol Crown Court was going on in regards to the sinking of an English trawler in which six men where tragically lost at sea. It was noted during the trial by a communications expert? that the boat had no HF radio on board , and the VHF radio was not tuned to channel 16. Needless to say Jenny and I visited the Lifeboat station in ST. Ives that day, just to see how incredibly small the boats are. For all of us who like to travel by sea, or just mess about on the water, what better way for some of that hideous lottery money to be spent, rather than spending many hundreds of millions on

the arts. I know one of our club members is a crew member of one of the inshore lifeboat crews, they all deserve medals. (How about a story for the Newsletter about your experiences ??) And the amazing thing is, like all the rescue services in this country, nobody is paid. (Although I believe that the coxswain is a full time member and is paid). Next time it's Lifeboat day remember these unsung heroes !!.

I would like to thank all of you who replied to me regarding my comments on the EEC regulations on EMC. I was quite taken back by the amount of comments I received by letter, cluster and on my email, and also how little there is really known about this new enactment from sur la continent. Would one of you who wrote to me like to break it down into English for us lesser mortals.

I hope you all saw the program on the Ionosphere on Horizon with the BBC. It was interesting to note the comments by G4ASR on the Cluster about the reaction to the programme makers by the RSGB. (G4ASR writes the VHF column in Practical Wireless). 73 good DX. Dave.

LETTERS

CDXC Entry Criteria

Dear Alan,

I would like to make a comment or two about the entry level criteria for CDXC. I have no particular view on whether this should be 100, 150 or 300 as such. I think 100 seems about right, but I can see the arguments each way for a different limit.

What I think is missing, however, is a means for the new DXer to gain access to the help, support and information provided by a DX Club such as CDXC. In other words, what does CDXC offer the DXer with zero to 100 countries worked or confirmed?

I remember when I first started DXing. All those questions I wanted answering, all the help I needed. It would have been wonderful to receive your Newsletter and felt that I belonged to a DX club. I was lucky in that I had the help of my father (VK9NS) and Henry (G3GIQ), but what of those new DXers out there who are on their own?

Exactly how CDXC should help budding DXers is obviously a matter for discussion amongst the membership. My own view is that it would be nice if people with zero or more countries could become members in some way of CDXC and at least receive the Newsletter.

Bruce Smith, G3HSR

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Dear Alan,

Recall the large correspondence in the last edition of Newsletter about the merits of CDXC entry requirements, elitist groups, etc? There was not one single response to the suggestion in the penultimate paragraph of my letter! One must assume, therefore, that everyone is satisfied with the requirements as they stand and that there is no serious desire for a club for "Top DXers" only. This suggests that CDXC is being run "just right" and emphasises the comment in the final sentence of my letter.

Brendan J McCartney, G4DYO
Founder member CDXC

Not in Log?

Ed: This is a letter received by John, G3EZZ, with his CY0TP QSL card.

Dear John

Through the "efficiencies" (?) of computer logging, you very nearly had your Sable QSL returned with the dreaded "Not in Log" legend. You were nowhere to be found when I searched for G3EZZ against CY0TP,

although you are in my personal log twice, both in 1991. However, upon further searching, I found an anomoly with the software we were using for Sable 1995. If, by accident, one enters a *space* before the callsign when logging (which I had done numerous times) then the machinery will not react unless one calls it back exactly the same way; i.e. "_G3EZZ". Anyhow, all is well, I'm smarter, and you get your new country confirmed on 30m exactly as requested. Everyone's a winner!

All the very best from the Sable Island crew of CY0TP, October 1995.

73, Gary, VE1RGB

SWL NEWS

Bob Treacher, BRS32525

I am aware that there are relatively few SWLs in CDXC, but I had hoped that someone would have put pen to paper to keep the SWL movement in print in the DX press. I have written for RadCom for many years and have now added a regular column in "CQ Contest" to my bow. SWLs are also well served by the ISWL and the ILA. Through my SWL Challenge, I have learnt of SWL columns in France, Belgium, Italy and South Africa. I am now on the Internet (101526,1041@compuserve.com) and found news for SWLs there. I hope that we can continue the trend nearer home, by providing a further medium for SWL News in this Newsletter. I therefore need YOUR news - however little.

At the time of writing, the 16 page A5 Results Booklet for my October SWL Challenge is in preparation, with publication scheduled by early March. The results will appear generally in the May issue of magazines. If any reader would like a copy, please send me $1 or 2 IRCs. There is a new winner for 1995 from the 94 logs received from 20 DXCC countries. In general, scores were not as great as in 1994. This was mainly because of poor propagation on 28MHz in most of Europe. However, remarkably, 118 different DXCC countries were heard by SWLs in Europe on 28MHz. There were 71 DXCC countries heard on Top Band, mirroring the greater emphasis in SSB DX of the band. A number of SWLs remarked on bagging new countries on the band. Indeed, there was some good DX to be heard, including FG5BG, KG4ZE, P49I, SU2MT, TG9NX, TO5M and 5N0MVE.

LF conditions had been good through the Winter DX Season. I managed to take my heard score on 3.5MHz to 279 with ZK1ATV, who was audible for just 2 minutes at sunrise early in January. Top Band had provided 5 new ones in January and early February - SV2ASP/A, 5X4F, YS1RRD, KG4SH and XE1IAX. I am looking forward to CQ160 SSB and the ARRL DX Contest to take the score to the 150 mark. I know of only one SWL who has broken the 150 mark on 160 SSB, David Whitaker BRS25429 - unless anyone knows different.

That's it for Issue 100. I hope for some SWL News from various sources to include in Issue 101. Either send your news via E-Mail to:

101526,1041@compuserve.com, or via "snailmail" to: 93 Elibank Road, Eltham, London SE9 1QJ, England.

FOR SALE

TS450SAT	£950
Heatherlite Explorer 1kW HF Amp	£700
Microset 20A PSU	£90
Buternut HF2 (still in box)	£110
Gem Quad (2-el)	offers

Contact Andy, G4OJH. QTHR

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Ken Chandler, G0ORH

Welcome to the Advance Contest section of CDXC Newsletter. Firstly, I must apologise for a couple of typo errors in last month's newsletter, and especially to the IOTA organisers. It seems that I put HF field day above the IOTA contest in regards to the largest RSGB contest on the books!!. Now of course, the IOTA contest is undoubtedly the RSGB's biggest contest. HF field day is our largest home contest in that it is only for portable operations, which is what I meant to say. The IOTA Programme and contest is growing very fast and is becoming one (if not already) one of the greatest contests ever!!. So popular in fact that in 1994, it attracted 400 entrants, in 1995 the contest attracted over 640 entrants, and in excess of 160, 000 QSOs plus an increase of over 50% on submitted logs. Now, this year ? The mere fact that IOTA is so popular is I guess, down to the main sponsor i.e., YAESU, the principal sponsor of the IOTA programme. RSGB & RadCom, RSGB HFCC, and the IOTA Committee, all play their part, especially Roger G3KMA and Neville G3NUG, who's recent trip to JA did more to improve the publicity of both the programme, and contest than by any other means possible. The complete report by Ian, G3TMA, RSGB's IOTA contest co-ordinator is due out in the March issue of RadCom, and should not be missed.

The second typo error is the LF Cumulative contests where I inserted the wrong dates, OOPS!

I have now sent out all my EU-011 QSL cards. Chris Page G4BUE, Adur Village Press, produced the cards for me and he did a fantastic job on them, and in full colour. Chris is certainly an expert on QSL design and set-up, and comes thoroughly recommended.

CONTEST RULES

BERMUDA CONTEST

When: Saturday 16 March to Sunday 17 March 96. Time: 00:00z to 24:00z. Operate for 24 hrs max.

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10.

Mode: Phone & CW, no crossband or crossmode QSOs.

Category: Single operator only.

Exchange: RS/T and serial no. A contact with a station on phone and CW on the same band will count for QSO points only and not as an additional multiplier.

Scoring: 5 points per QSO. Multiply by the total number of multipliers worked per band. Non-VP9 stations: multipliers are DXCC/WAE countries worked per band and the number of Bermuda stations worked per band. Final Score: QSO points times country multipliers times Bermuda multipliers. Separate logs for each band and mode. Logs must be received by 1st June 96 Mail logs to: RSB contest committee, Box HM 275, Hamilton HM AX, Bermuda.

CQ WORLD - WIDE WPX SSB CONTEST

When: Last full weekend. Time: 00:00z - 24:00z.

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10.

Mode: SSB only.

Categories : Single operator: multiband/ single band, high power/low power, (<100w output)/QRP (< 5watt output), assisted. Single operators operate only 36hrs. Off periods 60 minutes, to be marked in log.

Multioperator single transmitter. Multioperator multitransmitter. Multisingles

are allowed only one transmitter and one band during the same time period (10 minutes); Multi-Multis only allowed one transmitted signal per band. All transmitters must be on property limits, or within 500 metres.

Multioperators may operate for full 48hrs.

Exchange: RS(T) and serial number starting 001.

Scoring: 1 point per QSO with station on same continent on 20, 15, 10m bands and 2 points on 40, 80, 160m (exception; contacts with North America count 2 and 4 points respectively). Contacts with different continents, 3 points on 20, 15, 10m, and 6 points on 40, 80, 160m bands.

Multipliers: Multipliers are the number of different prefixes worked, and count once.

Prefixes are the letter/number combination that make up the first part of an amateur radio callsign.

Awards: Send for awards, Logs by May 10 96 to: CQ Magazine, 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA.

RSGB QRS CW CUMULATIVES 96

When: Monday 1 April, Tuesday 9 April, Wednesday 17 April, Thursday 25 April Friday 3 May, Monday 2 September, Tuesday 10 September, Wednesday 18 September, Thursday 26 September, Friday 4 October.

Time: All 19:00 - 20:30 z

Freq: 3540 - 3580 kHz

Mode: CW Only

Exchange: RST plus your first name. Multioperator stations must send only one name during any particular session, regardless of who is operating, different names may be used during different sessions.

Eligible Entrants: Section A, all operators must be members of the RSGB. Section B, Individual RSGB members who do not hold a class A full or Novice licence. This contest is only open to stations in the British Isles (excluding Eire) Stations outside of this area may not be logged for points.

Sections: A: Transmitting, single or Multioperator. No limit on the number of operators in a team, nor need they be the same for each session. **B:** Receiving, single operator only.

Speed Limit: No faster than 12WPM, and never faster than the other station is sending. PLEASE join in with the spirit of the contest....don't use a keyer. Don't use a computer - get out your straight key and keep your log on paper (at least during the contest).

Maximum Power: 3 Watts RF output for Novices. 10 Watts RF output for full licensees.

Scoring: Section A, Any UK station may be worked once during each session. Any contact with a Novice callsign at either or both ends scores 20 points. Contacts with two full licensees score 5 points. The overall score is the total of the best 3 three, sessions. Section B, Listeners may log only stations actively participating in the contest. Each Novice logged scores 20 points, each full callsign counts 5 points.

Logs: Entrants are requested to submit logs for all sessions during which they are active. The name of the operator worked/heard should be recorded in column 5.

Awards: Section A: Certificates of merit to the leading Novice and full licence holder, and also to the highest placed station entering any RSGB HF CW contest for the first time (please note on your cover sheet if you qualify for this award). Section B,

Certificate of merit to the leading listener. At the discretion of the contests committee (HFCC), additional certificates may be awarded if there is sufficient support.

RSGB ROPOCO (ROTATING POSTCODES) CW

When: Sunday 7 April 96, Sunday 4 August 96 Time: 07:00 - 09:00z

Freq: 3520 - 3570 kHz

Mode: CW Only Exchange: RST Plus postcode.

Exchange: RST plus for the first QSO, your OWN postcode. For each subsequent QSO, the postcode received from the previous contact. I.E., My first QSO I send RG183NP, I then receive RG133NB, my next contact I send RG133NB and so on. Easy! Have fun!

Scoring: Ten points for each contact with another UK station.

Awards: Certificates to the leading three entrants in both contests. Trophies to the highest-scoring entrant with a perfect or the most accurate log; in ROPOCO 1 the Verulam Silver Jubilee Trophy and in ROPOCO 2 the G3XTJ Memorial Trophy. The G5MY Trophy to the entrant with the highest aggregate score from both events.

RSGB LOW POWER FIXED CONTEST

When: Sunday 21 April 96 Time: 07:00 - 11:00z.

Freq: 3510 - 3560 & 7000 - 7030 kHz

Mode: CW only Exchange: RST + serial no + power output.

Power: Maximum power 5w RF output.

Scoring: Each contact with a QRP station 15 points; All other contacts 5 points. The same station may be worked on both bands for points.

Equipment: The transmitter or final amplifier stage shall not be capable of RF output power in excess of 15 Watts.

Awards: The 1930 Cup to the Winner. Certificates of merit to the second and third placed stations and to the highest placed entrant using completely home made equipment. A further certificate to the highest-placed entrant using 1 Watt or less RF output power.

NEW EUROPEAN SPRINT CONTEST 96

When: Saturday 20 April 96 (SSB), Saturday 18 May 96 (CW), Saturday 5 October 96 (SSB), Saturday 12 October 96 (CW) Time: 15:00 - 1859z

Bands: 80, 40, 20m Recommended frequencies are: 14030-070, 7010-040 3530-570, on CW, and on 14220-280, 7040-090, 3680-780 on SSB.

Entrants: Any licensed station operating from Europe (DXCC) definition) may enter the sprint.

Object: To work as many European stations as possible.

Categories: Single operator only. Only one signal radiated at any one time.

Exchange: All the following data MUST BE PART OF THE EXCHANGE:

1. Your callsign.
2. The other stations callsign.
3. Your serial no starting from 001, (RST is not required.
4. Your name or nickname.

Please note that: Initials of name/surname are NOT allowed, names/nicknames must be at least 3 letters long. Both callsigns must be repeated by both stations. A valid QSO

exchange could be like, "OK2FD de I2UIY 118 PAULO" while OK2FD 118 PAULO is not a valid QSO.

Special QSY Rule: If any station solicits a call by sending CQ, QRZ?, etc., he/she is permitted to work ONLY one station on the same frequency. He must thereafter move at least 2kHz before he/she will call another station or before he/she will solicit again CQ QRZ etc., other calls.

Valid Contacts: Are those correctly logged and confirmed QSOs. The same operator may use ONE and ONLY one name during the sprint, in case of any mistakes, ZERO points for that QSO.

Scoring: Each valid QSO counts ONE point. The final score is the number of valid QSOs. 50 QSOs, 50 points.

Awards: There are NO awards or prizes since these competitions have been created only to test the individual skills. Results will be forwarded as soon as possible to leagues, magazines, and bulletins etc.

Logs: Logs to be prepared in chronological order. A separate summary sheet is also required. Logs must be sent no later than 15 days after the contest to these addresses:

Spring SSB sprint: Dave Lawley G4BUO Carramore, Coldharbour Rd, Penhurst Kent. TN11 8EX.

Spring CW sprint: Paulo Cortese, I2UIY, Box 14 27043 Broni (PV) Italy. Autumn SSB sprint: As I2UIY.

Autumn CW sprint: Karel Karmasin, OK2FD, Gen, Svobody 636, 674 01 Tribic, Czech Republic.

CQ WPX CW CONTEST 96

When: Last full weekend in May. Time: 00:00z - 24:00z.

Mode: CW only.

All other details are as for the SSB section above.

That's it for this Issue. My thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, HFCC, DXNS, & QST publications, for without them much of this information would not be available. I hope that the above data is of benefit to you, and though I do try and keep all info correct, the inevitable typo error does sometimes happen. Have a good contesting period and looking forward to working you on the bands. Thanks 73s de Ken....G0ORH

IOTA MINI-DXPEDITION - EU-039

Chris, G3SJJ and Phil, G3SWH will be active with 100 watts of CW only to wire and vertical antennas from Les Iles Chausey (IOTA EU-039) for a 24 hour plus period on 23/24 March 1996 as F/G3SWH. The IOTA Committee has kindly loaned us its Yaesu supplied transceiver. If possible a second station using the callsign F/G3SJJ will be used simultaneously. All HF bands 80 metres to 10 metres will be used.

Preferred frequencies will be 3515, 7015, 10115, 14015, 18075, 21015, 24895 and 28015 KHz. Specially printed QSL cards for both callsigns will be handled by G3SWH, either direct (21 Dickensons Grove, Congresbury, Bristol, BS19 5HQ, UK) or via the RSGB Bureau.

DXPEDITION TO NORFOLK ISLAND

Siegfried Hari, DK9FN (VK9FN)

Again, I was on the air as VK9FN from November 4-11th, 1995. I was able to go to Norfolk Island as I had to do a business trip to Australia for my Company. As usual, I also added some days of holiday to see the country and to undertake some activities in ham radio. During the seven days, I made 1924 CW and 1 SSB contacts.

I used my own equipment, an Icom 706 (100w) and a vertical G5RV multiband wire antenna out of my own antenna factory in connection with a simple antenna tuner. I was active on nine bands from 160m-10m, but propagation was very poor during that time.

I stayed in a small but excellent island lodge with pleasant staff who allowed me to install my antenna on top of the building. Its name is *The Highland* Lodge and is located a little bit outside the village on top of a green hill. The G5RV was placed as a semi-vertical on a 10m fibreglass pole (fishing pole) which was very convenient for travelling purposes as its total weight is only 1.5kg at 1.15m length when stowed.

The weather was fine during the whole time with temperatures at 30° C, with blue sky during the day, and 20° and strong winds at night. Norfolk Island is famous for its history, since the famous *Bounty* mutineers took the island for their new home.

All QSL cards will be sent automatically via the bureau during the next six months,. For those who like to QSL direct, please send the correct enclosures for return mail costs. Please remember the very high mail charge in Germany. A single airmail letter to the USA or Japan costs DM3, which is US$2.20. Since the country was re-united, our government has squeezed us like a lemon by one tax increase after another. Thus, I will be collecting the letters, and distributing them via friends from other post offices abroad. Envelopes with $1 included won't be replied to direct, but via the bureau.

Finally, thanks to all who supported the expedition with some green stamps, and with their pile up which sometimes caused some heat and excitement in my brain! I wish you much success for other new ones, and hope we can meet next time when I will be on tour from 27th February to 13th March 1996 as CE0Y/DK9FN.

DK9FN at the operating position

FEBRUARY 1996 VK9 TRIP

Dear folks,

Nice to be back after again three exciting weeks of DXing. Believe me, it was not only a hard job for you to pick us up. I still hear lots of tropical thunderstorms. Nevertheless it was again a real fun.

After about 22,000 QSOs made last year from both islands together, we've added 26,000 this year, bout 10,700 of them on the three lower bands. Using a top loaded, 20.5m (65 ft.) high vertical with 20 radials, we've made 916 QSOs on 160, 66 of them nearly unbelievable with North America (abt 10,000 miles away, nearly straight behind the pole). Receiving antennas were two beverages, 1100 ft. for Europe/East Coast and 700 ft. for West Coast (more was not possible, we'd have had to cross the airstrip on Cocos). Other antennas were GAP's Voyager, which suffered damage when a plastic strip started burning during a heavy rain fall on Cocos working on 40m (but worked solidly), and the Butternut HF2V with big radial set - again solidly performing. Beside this we've used 2x IC-736 and a IC-735, two DRAKE PAs L75 and L7, Timewave DSPs, Transmitter-Bandfilters made by DL5DQZ and lots of other small things.

Best lowband night was the first night on Cocos with 22 West Coast and more than 100 Europe QSOs on topband. Best highband evening was the last one from Christmas with 10m openings into Europe. Except maybe 150 QSOs, all others were over a distance of at least abt. 4,000 miles - DX is!

Difficult to decide which band to choose, between 12z and 15z you really can work on 6-7 bands at the same time. Otherwise between 1z and 9z all bands are closed, except for Japan but they are at work. Two remarks:

1. We know, that a lot of you were calling and we couldn't pick the callsigns up. With the heavy thunderstorms here and specially on 80m with heavy QRM from totally overmodulated Indonesian AM-CB-stations (20 over S9 and 60 kHz wide splattering) it was a ride on the volcano. If you aren't satisfied - I invite you to be our partner the next time.

2. VK9XL - QRV at the same time; we couldn't spot him on the island. Talking to him he surprisingly didn't want to meet us. Nobody of our friends on Christmas had knowledge about a second radio station during this time. There're only 2,500 inhabitants living all together in one corner of the island (Flying Fish Cove). All that we saw were several freighters offshore.

If you still not in the log, try to catch Kazu, JA1CMD, who is in Jakarta now and will go to both islands end of March. I'll try my best to give him all info I have.

Thanks again to all, who helped us making this DXpedition successful, especially again to WF1B and W6OTC for a running version of RTTY, after we got some very bitter crashes with the version 2.20b distributed by DK2OY for Europe.

Special regards to our friend Rudi, DK7NP - he'll be the one in charge for the distribution of all cards. Because we'll print new cards, the delivery will start sometime in May.

This show is over, but we're thinking already about next year. Would like to grab a new spot, after VK9-L, X and C there're still some missing. Some suggestions ?

But now I'll start to set up my own station in Bandung first. See you on the bands or at the HAMRADIO last weekend in June in Friedrichshafen in south Germany.

vy 73 Joe DL8WPX / YB6AVE / VK9CR / VK9XY

ROMEO STEPANENKO

The following messages have recently appeared on Internet and the UK DX Cluster Network.

DXCC NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 21, 1996

ARRL AWARDS COMMITTEE VOTES ROMEO STEPANENKO DISQUALIFIED FROM DXCC

The ARRL Awards Committee met recently to review submitted documentation for the 1992-1993 P5RS7 operation submitted by Romeo Stepanenko. After review of all material available, the Awards Committee voted unanimously to disqualify Romeo Stepanenko from participating in the DXCC Program.

This disqualification is based on Rule 12, Operating Ethics, and Rule 13.

This disqualification means that Stepanenko is not eligible to participate in the DXCC Program in any manner. This includes, as provided for under Rule 12, paragraph (B) disallowance of contacts made with any station or DXpedition operated by him from the time of this action.

End.

From Bob WB2DIN:

Whether this is ethics or political fighting remains to be seen as the others involved in the operation appear to have gotten off with their participation. I agree with the disqualification but believe that everyone involved should have shared in the penalty equally. They all knew where they were and if they knew enough to earn a license then they should have been smart enough to read a map and know where they were.

End

If this isn't a major "hot potato" what is?

The operators of "P5RS7" were: UB4JDM, UW0MF, UT3UY and 3W3RR/AH0M. All will recognise most of these callsigns but one in particular stands out - that of Mike, UW0MF, a well-respected DXer who has provided Zone 19 contacts for many. Note that the ARRL action relates to the "P5" operation and there was no mention of XY0RR, even though it is widely thought that the XY operation did not take place from where it was claimed. ARRL has so far ignored pleas from several parties to review the DXCC acceptance of the XY0RR operation, possibly because of the effect it would have on the members of Honor Roll. However, a similar situation exists with P5 - there has been a fully authorised operation but very few Honor Roll members were lucky enough to secure contacts. As a result there will be major disturbance to the top of HR in the next listings.

If there is doubt about the legitimacy of XY0RR it is high time ARRL wiped the late clean. After all, most DXers will have worked XZ1A and there is every possibility of a major operation from Myanmar in the future.

WILD ROSE COUNTRY AWARD

The Wild Rose Country Award is available to all hams and SWLs who work the required number of VE6 stations. Contacts can be made on any band, any mode including satellites and packet. There is no fee for this award, which is sponsored by the Amateur Radio League of Alberta.

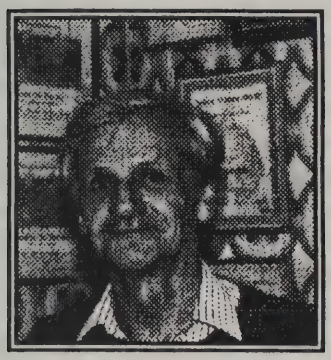
Amateurs outside the USA and Canada are required to make 10 contacts with VE6 stations to qualify. There is no time limit for this award.

Send your log info with a 9 X 12 envelope plus 4 IRCs or $US4 to:

VE6SRC Stu Crawford, 6354 Bowview Rd NW, Calgary, Alberta T3B 2H8, Canada

THE MYANMAR SITUATION

By Jim Smith, VK9NS



What are we to make of the Myanmar situation? The DXCC Desk is in a very tough spot right now. We had the DXCC Manager operating from Myanmar as one of the operators of XZ1A and almost at the same time we had statements that XZ1A was the only legit station, despite XY1HT also having been active under the auspices of JA1UT. Next is the release by Martti Laine's group saying: "The Government of Myanmar knows nothing about Romeo Stepanenko, XY0RR. We never gave authority....", etc., or words to that effect.

Already there is talk of what DXCC should do to maintain the integrity of the DXCC programme. Suggestions include - or to be correct, there are but two choices:

1. Let sleeping dogs lie.

2. Rescind credit for all those who claimed it. (This, of course, would mean many DXers since Burma (Myanmar) was inactive in the strictest of terms since 1960 when amateur radio was officially declared a no-no).

Of course it is a no-win situation and either way there will be an outcry. We, the DXers count our countries on the premise that it is "OK at DXCC". Every month there is a release from DXCC listing operations which are OK for DXCC credit, which shows that the DXCC Desk is checking documentation. There can be nothing wrong with that - only the odd groan from a DXer as a much-needed one is declared as "no documentation received". We all know that story, especially with the TT8's and the like!

So what would you do under the circumstances? Here is what I suggest should be done immediately: Firstly we must not hang Romeo just yet - there must be no Kangaroo Court decisions just to suit XZ1A or XY1HT. I have no doubt that both operations were legitimate, they said they were and I have no reason to doubt those statements.

We must have a statement from Romeo - from where did he operate? Who gave the authority? How can he prove his statements? This can also be done in three other ways by written statements from the three other XY0RR participants: Gena UA9MA, Roman 4K2OT and Harry RA3AUU. There is hardly a DX Club or group which was not involved in this operation; the XY0RR QSL card reads like a Who's Who? Of DXing. It is an important issue for the DXCC programme and its stamp of integrity.

Of course, the reality of this integrity is in the mind. We, the DXers, believe that somehow people gather round checking documentation with a magnifying glass and finally reach a decision one way or the other. The reality, alas, is often slightly different with many of the "permissions" submitted being highly questionable, although in recent years there has been a policy in DXCC to "end shaky documentation receiving the OK".

For many years I had advocated the deletion of several DXCC countries on the basis that they were not active, did not permit amateur radio, etc. There were many such countries and the new DXer had an icicle's chance in hell of working Burma, Vietnam, Albania, etc. I have forgotten how many I proposed should be deleted, but was around 13

countries. My argument was that the older DXers (myself included) were sitting with a pat hand and there was no way that thousands of DXers could touch us. That seemed wrong to me and the deletion of these countries would have levelled the playing field.

Which brings me back to XY0RR. Many had their suspicions about XY0RR, myself included. However, we trusted the DXCC Desk to check documentation and rule accordingly - this was seen to be done. If the documentation is subsequently found to be forged, and a check with the four participants concerned should soon sort this out, then I believe that a decision should be made to discount XY0RR.

Having said that, I would also insist that all the operations of Romeo be subjected to scrutiny and the same procedure adopted, namely written statements from the participants of each of the DXpeditions involved, i.e. YA, 1S, etc.

For younger readers of this article, we had such a situation many years ago - one of the greatest DXers of the time started on the downward spiral by stating that he was in certain rare DX locations, which later turned out to be lies.

I believe that DXers who worked Romeo from his various locations, real or false, did so trusting that he was honest. We all thought that maybe he had an "in" to various countries, perhaps due to his USSR background. How else can one operate from North Korea, for example? In addition, DXers trusted that the ARRL had done its homework, seen the documentation and made the right decisions.

DXers now deserve the can of worms to be fully examined an, in the meantime, hold credit for these recent operations to keep things level for, say, six months until things are sorted out.

The press release from the Union of Myanmar ending "be sure to work one of these legitimate operations this week" was surely an example of DX arrogance which was hard to stomach, even if it turned out to be true.

May I remind all concerned that we also had a similar statement from the ZA1A group when if found it necessary to come on the amateur bands stating that the Hungarian-led operation was illegal - they were the only licensed station, etc., etc.

Romeo Stepanenko may be guilty of deception, but LET'S FIND OUT FIRST.

FORTHCOMING IOTA OPS

1. Melville Island (OC-173) will be activated from the 15-18 March by Stuart, VK8NSB and David, VK8HZ. The Call sign for Melville Island is VK8MI and QSLs go direct to VK4AAR, who is OK in 1995/96 Call Book. The exact QTH will be Snake Bay on Melville Island.

2. Stuart, VK8NSB, will be activating Croker Island (OC- Unnumbered) from 17-24 July. This will be a 24 Hour/day operation. Check usual IOTA Freqs.

QSL via VK8HA direct or via the Buro. The call sign VI8CI has been applied for, if not the call sign may be VK8CI.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Past Editors of the CDXC Newsletter:

1-41	Oct 83-Feb 86	G4DYO	41 issues
42-67	Feb 86-May 90	G3XTT	26 issues
68-70	Jul 90-Dec 90	G4JVG	3 issues
71-73	Feb 91-May 91	G3XTT	3 issues
74-83	Jul 91-May 93	G0HSD	10 issues
84-	Jul 93 to date	G3PMR	17 issues

WAKE ISLAND DXPEDITION

The Dateline DX Association is pleased to publish this recap on its trip to Wake Island (AL7EL/KH9). We were QRV from February 1 through February 7, 1996. The daytime HF conditions reflected what we expected at the bottom of a sunspot cycle but conversely we enjoyed excellent conditions on the lower frequencies. This allowed us to meet our goal of concentrating on the lower bands. We had excellent LF openings into most of Europe and we logged over 1200 Europeans during the week. Statistics:

Total QSOs approximately 9,000 (4780 unique calls).

CW	5722	RTTY	140
Phone	2811	SAT (AO-13)	60

Bands:	**CW**	**SSB**	**RTTY**
160	455	5	
80	1434	456	
40	1901	226	
30	508		
20	646	1206	67
17	529	590	14
15	213	270	59
12	31	31	
10	-	30	
SAT	5	57	

Countries where we had 10 or more QSOs (totals are QSOs not unique calls):

USA	3699	Kazakh Rep	27
Japan	3288	Denmark	27
Finland	198	Argentina	24
Russia	195	**England**	**21**
Italy	191	Spain	20
Germany	112	Brazil	18
Poland	99	Czech Rep	15
Sweden	78	Norway	15
Canada	88	Switzerland	15
Australia	60	Latvia	13
Ukraine	50	Yugoslavia	12
New Zealand	52	Netherlands	11
Slovakia	36	Mexico	10
France	30	Hong Kong	10
Korea	29	Israel	10
Belgium	28		

Ed: Hardly a rip-roaring DXpedition for the Europeans, and what happened to GM, GW, etc? Undoubtedly the poor propagation played a major part - KH9, and countries in that area, are notoriously difficult to work from the UK.

HEARD ISLAND 1997

Plans are already well advanced for the 1997 DXpedition to be led by Bob Schmieder, KK6EK.

It is hoped to publish detailed plans in CDXC Newsletter later this year. In the meantime, here are the basics:

The expedition will involve two main activities:

1. Amateur radio operations and radio science

2. Natural science, specifically study of cryptofauna

The expedition will depart Reunion Island on 3 January and return 5 February. Approximately 2 weeks will be spent on Heard Island, with brief visits to Crozet and Kerguelen Islands. The expedition is being planned by Cordell Expeditions, a non-profit oceanic research group based in Walnut Creek, California. The expedition will be financed by contributions from participants, industrial partners, scientific and governmental organisations.

Team: 20 operators, including: 9V1YC, EA8AFJ, HB9AHL, K0IR, K4UEE, K9AJ, KA6W, KK6EK, N6EK, NP4IW, ON6TT, PA3DUU, RA3AUU, W6OTC, W8FMG, WA0PUJ, WA3YVN.

Vessel: Marion Dufresne

Budget: US$320,000

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION, A NEW ATTEMPT FOR THE TOP

Peter Casier, ON6TT

It was close to midnight when Arie-PA3DUU and myself arrived in Cairns, north-eastern Australia. John, VK4JKL was there to pick us up from the airport. He briefed us on the situation while driving to the harbour through a city which was vast asleep. The car turned slowly around the corner of one of the piers and with a telelens, we zoomed in on a ship. 'Tallarook' it was painted on the front side. I took a deep breath. "Impossible", I sighed as I handed over the camera to Arie, "that thing will never do the job." "No", said Arie, "She won't".

An expedition that was not.

This sounds like the start of a spy story. And this is how we felt, a little. We were looking at the ship which we had chartered to take us to Heard Island in the Sub-Antarctic. A 4500 nmiles voyage through the world's roughest seas, with 8 people and about seven tons of cargo. This 'thing' was supposed to take us there. Instead of a 140 ft boat which was said 'to have frequented the Antarctic several times', we found a Worldwar II vintage mine-sweeper, barely 70 ft long, with a low wet-deck bow and in a shattered condition. It was a ship which obviously had never been outside of coastal waters and which, in the state it was, would even have problems leaving the harbour on its own...

What had gone wrong? Nothing up to two weeks before we left. The boat and the chartering company looked fine on paper. We had frequent exchanges of information with the owner, a certain Kris Mitchell of KD&M Transportation Ltd. An extensive contract was made and over the past months, we transferred a down payment of US$120,000 from the total chartering costs of US$145,000. This sum not only covered the transportation but also some basic supplies, the fees for our cargo to VK, fuel for the generators, propane for the heaters, food for the trip and the plane tickets for the team to and from Australia.

And it started to go wrong with the latter: two weeks before we left, the plane tickets for Arie and me had not arrived. Ralph, K0IR, the team leader, had tried several times to get hold of Kris Mitchell, but for the first time in many months, his mobile phone was disconnected. The travel agent said that the plane tickets had not been paid for yet, and he could not get hold of Kris Mitchell either. After some discussions, the travel agent agreed to advance the funds for the tickets himself.

Nevertheless, we were getting very suspicious and started to track down the vessel. It turned out to be in Cairns, a couple of thousand miles from where it was supposed to be at that time. We found out which shipyard the ship was in and talked, by phone, to several people in Cairns who had dealings with Kris. They all agreed: Kris Mitchell was a crook, the ship was a wreck and would never be able to do the trip. "Baaam". In contrast to the preparations of the trip, which had been going real smoothly, this news surprised us like a bomb in a quiet night...

That is why Arie and I had flown in to Cairns immediately after arriving in Perth. And the news we passed to Ralph that night was the end of our doubts: it confirmed that we were in trouble, deep trouble.

I will spare you the details of what happened with the boat in the two weeks that followed. It is a sad story which involves lawyers, issuing a writ, visits with the sheriff, and finally involving harbour authorities and media. The boat made a run for it in the middle of the night. Weeks later she was found back a couple of hundred miles south of Cairns, almost sinking, and had to be

towed back to Cairns..

Meanwhile Arie and I had returned to Perth, where most of the other team members had assembled: K0IR, KK6EK, RA3AUU and HB9AHL. Many meetings were held, together with our hosts VK6NE and VK6UE, supported by a contingent of VKs. We agreed that no-one in our team was to blame and the only option was to look for another vessel. The fax and telephone never rested. Soon most of the bigger ship brokers in VK were looking for a vessel for us. In vain. And, as we were desperate for a ship, a lot of 'worms' came out of the woodwork: fishy proposals with doubtful vessels. As we did not want to run into a 'ship trap' again, we decided to blow the whistle and to return. Ralph stayed in VK for another two weeks visiting the Australian Antarctic Division, and travelling all over Australia launching a publicity campaign to get public support and above all, trying to get our money back from Kris Mitchell. Up to now, we still did not get our money back. Needless to say how we felt then and how we still feel. We had come very close and were facing the financial challenges of our disaster. Well over US$100,000 was gone, and more money had to be invested to get all our cargo released and shipped back, and to pay for the lawyers and the trips around Australia...

What did we do wrong?

Organising an expedition of the size of the Heard DXpedition is complex and full of potential booby-traps. Bob, Ralph and I moved very carefully and double checked every step. From the moment the idea of the expedition was born (Sept. '94), we knew there were four main challenges: the landing permit, a good team, sufficient funding and above all the transportation. On the latter, a lot of time was spent phoning, faxing and Emailing to different brokers and organisations around the world. But we were running on a tight budget, and our demands were quite steep: renting a vessel for six weeks, a vessel with a range of over 5,000 nmiles, with adequate landing gear, room for eight people and 50 cubic meters of cargo, and above all: a vessel which was safe and certified to do the trip through the roaring Forties and screaming Fifties... When Ralph had found the Tallarook, he was suspicious. We all were... As Ralph said from the beginning: 'This sounds too good to be true'. And knowing that Ralph is not an easy believer and takes his steps carefully, we knew that when he said 'this is going to be our vessel', he had checked the company and the vessel as well as the Australian law permits. Once the decision was made, we went forward with the rest of the project: the funding, the team, the cargo (which came from three different continents and four different places), the radio gear, and the planning of the expedition after landing. Ralph did most of the work on his own, as I was in Africa and Bob was working on his XR0Z/XR0Y expedition which took place in the beginning of September.

But, we were in good shape. We had the potential of starting one of the biggest DXpeditions of all times. Excellent equipment, great operators, good accommodation on the island, plenty of generator power, a good backup team which was linked to us via Internet,... Until.. until Kris Mitchell turned out to be a professional crook and the boat deal to be a scamp.

The only thing we could have done better was to send someone over to check the boat physically. And even then, Kris Mitchell would probably have succeeded to con us.

A new attempt for the top.

"The qualities of an expedition team are not measured by the height of the mountain, but by their motivation to reach the top."

There was little doubt in the team's mind: 'we will not give up'. We all agreed to try

again for Heard in the next Antarctic season. Unfortunately, Ralph, our team leader, might not be able to find the time off from work. He asked Bob-KK6EK and myself to take over the role as expedition leaders for the new attempt to the top. Bob and I will share responsibilities and are on top of things. "New leaders" means new ways of doing things. Not that the 'old ways' were bad, but because we want to approach the expedition from a different angle.

1 We spread the responsibilities: two expedition leaders, supported by a Board (with N6EK, K0IR and NP4IW), and a team of consultants.

2 The team of operators will be larger, and in the past weeks, we asked anyone interested to send in their applications.

3 Also we are looking for people from other disciplines caving teams, mountaineers, scientists, a camera crew to join us.

4 We will take more time to schedule the expedition step by step, guided by the scoping document, which is already made available on Internet.

5 And... we will do a serious effort to get a good financial backup from the commercial world...

Will we be able to do it? At this moment, all looks favourable, though we are still in search of a suitable vessel and for more funding. (*Update Jan 6: Received a real good lead for a vessel yesterday. I think we can do it! -ON6TT*) If we have those two main things covered, we are ready for another attempt for the top. And once we declare it a 'go', I have little doubt whether we will reach the top.

And you?

There is a considerable support needed from you, the DXers, world-wide. Not only financial support, but also ideas concerning commercial funding, publicity etc.. We want this effort to be for you and by you. You all should be part of this adventure. We are just the executioners of the project, but the project is for a large part made by you. So.... do not hesitate to contact us. Spill your ideas, help us reaching the top. For you.

Peter, ON6TT, Project Director, Heard '95-'96 Expedition.

SOLAR SUMMARY DEC95/JAN96

Jim Smith, G0OFE

Solar activity in December/January remained at levels similar to those seen through most of 1995. Indeed, the 90-day average of solar flux has been 74 +/-2 units since the beginning of July.

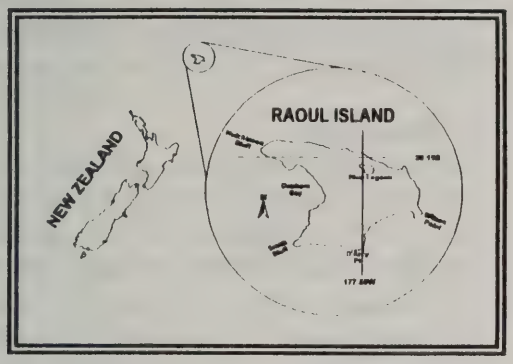
The average solar flux for December was 72.5, and for January 74.6 units. The highest flux was 86 units on 4th Jan, and the lowest 69 units, on 17/18/19 Dec. and 13 Jan. The annual smoothed solar flux at the end of January (and centred on the end of July 95) was 76.5 units, some 3-4 units above the value seen in the 3 previous solar minima.

Geomagnetic activity has also remained almost unchanged compared with recent months - most days very quiet with the occasional slight disturbance.

So not a lot to report really - I'm beginning to see one or two bulletins relating to reports from some of the "authorities" e.g. Boulder, regarding the minimum/next cycle - I'll try to collate some of these from the Internet and incorporate these into my next contribution. 73 de Jim

KERMADEC ISLANDS DXPEDITION 1996

Compiled by G4DYO



The Kermadec DX Association, which has been planning an operation from the much sought-after Kermadec Islands for two years, has announced the acquisition of the necessary paperwork for the operation to go ahead from Raoul Island in May.

Papers include the licence (ZL8RI), permit granting access to Raoul Island and the concession from the department of Conservation authorising amateur operation from the islands. Copies of all documents have been provided for CDXC by KDXA. CDXC and the RSGB DXpedition fund have jointly donated a sum of £400 to this DXpedition.

Currently 10th most wanted country in the world and 3rd most wanted in Europe, Kermadec has always enjoyed a high position on DXers' Wanted Lists. The KDXA team, by choosing a time when propagation should be reasonable, hope to rectify this situation by pushing ZL8 well down the list.

The team members will cover approximately 33% of the estimated cost of $32,000 needed for this operation. The ship's charter is $25,000 (including MREs for the expedition, fuel, port fees, etc.). Transportation of equipment, two 7.5kW diesel generators, expendable and non-expendable supplies (cables, connectors, etc.) and fees at Raoul island add a further $5,000 to $7,000.

The operation, which is planned (and authorised) to take place from 4-14 May, 1996, looks like being one of the biggest from the Kermadecs for many years. On this occasion the team has been authorised to remain on the island throughout the operation, rather than having to return to the boat each night, which has been the requirement for some previous DXpeditions.

At least six experienced operators will be active around the clock for eleven days and they will strive to work as many stations as possible on all bands. Special efforts will be made to work weaker European stations and also those running QRP. Four complete stations will be active on all bands CW, SSB and RTTY. All equipment, including gear for LF and the WARC bands, is already in New Zealand.

The team will depart New Zealand on 30 April aboard the Research Vessel Evohe, a modern ship which has been inspected by the team and meets the highest specifications of reliability and safety. The ship, which has some of the best communications and navigation systems, is equipped with two Zodiacs and two additional safe-landing craft.

The Kermadec team will adhere to all ethical operating and QSLing practices. QSL cards will be handled by team leader Ken Holdom, ZL2HU. All cards, whether direct or via the bureau, will be answered.

The full team has yet to be finalised but members at the time of writing include:

Ken Holdom, ZL2HU: Ken, who is the DXpedition organiser , has been a ham for 6 years. Ken has operated from both Raratonga (South Cooks) and Pukapuka (North Cooks) as ZK1KH and enjoys working DX from ZL. Ken is a member of

DXCC

Chris Hannigan: ZL2DX. DX operator and member of the Kiwi contest team, has operated from the Kermadecs, Campbell Island and the Chatham islands over the past 15 years. Chris is a skilled contest and CW operator. His previous calls include: ZL4OY/A, ZL4OY/C, ZL7OY, ZM8OY and ZL8OY - the last two from Raoul Island in 1986.

Ron Wills, ZL2TT: Ron is the DX editor of Break In, the NZART National journal and he has been in the game for a long time. Previous calls include G3TPT, VK9RE, ZK1ATT, ZK2XE, ZL7TT and VE3FXE. Ron, who was an operator on the 1993 ZL7AA DXpedition, is a member of DXCC and has been active for 35 years.

Lee Jennings, ZL2AL: Lee has been a ham for 44 years and enjoys contest and CW operations. Lee organised a DXpedition to the Chatham Islands in 1993 (ZL7AA) and has previously operated as VE3CDX, VE3OE, VE3LJ and ZL1BET. Lee, who is a member of DXCC, has been continuously active for all the 4 years.

Al Hernandez, WA3YVN: Al has been a ham for 22 years and has gained international credibility with many DXpeditions, such as LU1ZC South Shetlands, LU2ZE South Orkney, VP8MS Antarctic Peninsular, VP8CBC Falklands, C6AHI Bahamas, etc. He helped organise and operated as a member of the 1992 VP8SSI South Sandwich and the 1995 VP8SGP South Georgia DXpeditions. Al is a committed DXer and is working hard with the rest of the group to make ZL8 happen again this year. Al will share the financial management of the group with Ken Holdom.

One other operator is expected to join the team - possibly from Japan.

PROPAGATION

One well-known propagation programme suggests the following openings from the UK, assuming a SF number of 100 (over-optimistic?):

Short path

20m	0600
	1800
15m	10-1400

Long Path

20m	04-0600
	2000
15m	2000-0200
	0600

However, experience suggests that if you base your DXing on propagation programmes you'll never make Honor Roll! For those who wish to calculate their own odds, SR and SS times during the DXpedition are as follows (all UTC, UK time is for London):

SUNRISE	Kermadec	UK
May 4	1824	0427
May 10	1828	0414
May 14	1830	0409

SUNSET	Kermadec	UK
May 4	0516	1928
May 10	0511	1937
May 14	0509	1943

Based upon those figures, 80m looks like being a dead duck but there may be a slight chance LP on 40m in our mornings..

QSLING ETHICS

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

Members will know that the IOTA Committee recently initiated a project to follow up many of the long outstanding IOTA QSLs.

The following note appeared in the Chod Harris' DX column in the February 1996 edition of CQ Magazine. These are ARRL guidelines and are similar to the ones adopted by IARU Region 1. Members' views on this note would be most welcome.

"While all but a handful of DX stations and QSL managers are honest, hard-working volunteers, there are a few bad apples in the field who let greed overpower their commitment to the DX community. Some managers and DX stations insist on funds over and above the cost of return postage, refuse to deal with multiple-callsign QSL requests, or refuse to answer bureau cards. In an effort to stem such abusive practices, the ARRL has adopted a set of QSLing guidelines.

1. (A) Any DX station or organised DXpedition appointing a QSL manager or acting as their own manager should ensure that satisfactory arrangements are in place for receiving and responding to incoming bureau and direct cards. (B) When selecting a QSL manager, the reliability of the manager's postal system should be taken in consideration. (C) Any DXpedition organiser or person appointing a QSL manager must accept responsibility for that manager's performance.

2. The QSL manager should respond direct, and within a reasonable period of time, as long as sufficient funds (IRCs, stamps, money orders) to cover the cost of return postage (and return envelope, if one isn't enclosed) are enclosed with the request. Airmail should be used if sufficient funds are enclosed.

3. The QSL manager should respond to incoming SWL cards under the same conditions as QSL cards for two-way contacts.

4. DXpedition QSL managers should not insist on separate envelopes for different QSOs or stations. They should establish internal procedures to handle such multiple requests.

5. Recognising that mistakes of time and/or date are frequently made, QSL managers are expected to make a diligent search for QSOs that can't be found in the log.

6. It is unacceptable and unethical to demand a specific number of IRCs or "green stamps" (dollar bills) if a smaller number would cover the costs mentioned in Point 2.

7. There should be no (time) limit for applying for QSLs. Old logbooks should be passed to responsible volunteers or DX clubs when the manager no longer wishes to retain them.

8. All amateur stations engaged in DX operating and the exchange of QSL cards are expected to adhere to the above-recommended guidelines. Radio amateurs are not required to belong to their national amateur radio societies or clubs. Accordingly, stations without incoming and/or outgoing QSL bureau service should make their own arrangements for QSLing, but within the guidelines of Point 6.

Violations of the above guidelines may subject the DXpedition or DX station to disqualification by the ARRL Awards Committee in accordance with Rule 12, operating ethics of the ARRL DX Century Club rules."

DX NEWS

(Extracts from OPDX News & other sources)

XZ1N UPDATE FROM KF7AY. The recent postponement of the XZ1R operation from Yangon has understandably generated questions as to whether or not the April XZ1N DXpedition will be allowed to proceed. At this point, we are pleased to report that things look very promising. At issue have been some regulatory matters between the Myanmar military and related ministries. These are purely internal matters which are to be sorted out this week.

As of 27 Feb., word from Yangon is encouraging and chances are good that we will be allowed to proceed as originally planned. However, final approval is still pending and will not be passed on to me here in Arizona before Monday, March 4th.

Last week, while in Myanmar, Martti Laine worked tirelessly on our behalf. He met with numerous government officials and followed up on countless details. If this DXpedition is allowed to go forward (and we expect that it will) it will solely be due to the generosity and support of this world-class DXpeditioner.

As soon as final approval is granted, I will quickly post details to the DX Reflector.

4S7 HB9BRM, will sign 4S7BRG from March 9th to April 17th. QSL to his home call.

9M8 Andrea, DL3ABL, and Micha, DL6MHW, will be active from Sarawak (9M8), March 14-25th. Their callsigns are unknown at this time, but they plan to be active on CW and SSB. QSL via DL3ABL.

ARRL DXCC YEARBOOK. There have been reports that the DXCC Yearbook will be sent out in the middle of March and everyone should have theirs by April 1st.

CANADIAN SPECIAL PREFIXES. On 19 February 1996, Industry Canada Quebec Region authorised all Canadian Radio Amateurs to use special prefixes to mark the 50th anniversary of UNICEF. UNICEF is the United Nations agency concerned with the protection of children victimised by war. From 0000z, March 30th until 2359z May 30th, Canadian Amateurs may replace their normal callsign prefix with a special prefix as follows: VA2 to VC2, VA3-VC3, VA7-VC7, VE1-VD1, VE2-VD2, VE3-VD3, VE4-VD4, VE5-VD5, VE6-VD6, VE7-VD7, VE8-VD8, VE9-VD9, VO1-VO7, VO2-VO8, VY1-VY7 and VY2-VY8.

VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND. DXNL reports that Ken, JA1CMD/AD4WF, will be active as VK9XH from March 23-25th. He will be operating on CW and SSB with activity on 10-160 meters. QSL via home call or AE4EZ.

WEB SITES FOR DXERS/CONTESTERS.

The following WEB sites report details on the upcoming CY0AA Sable Island DXpedition (VHF/HF) in June 1996:

http://www.cam.org/o/sable.html
http://www.accessone.com:80/ok/1996/feb/cy0aa.htm

THE 59(9) DX REPORT is pleased to announce its new web page is now available to DXers, Contesters and all interested. They have assembled a sampling of the bulletin's features and relevant information.

You can visit the site at:

http://members.aol.com/the599rpt/dx.htm

XU, CAMBODIA. Mike, VS6WV, should be here over the next year or two.

ZD7 & ZD8, CDXC member Andy Chadwick, G4ZVJ, will sign ZD7VJ from the island of St. Helena, March 29th to April 12th. Activity will be CW only on 1827, 3503, 7003, 10107, 14027, 18077, 21027, 24897, 28027 kHz (+/- QRM) listening up. From April 16-23rd, he may also be active as ZD8VJ. QSL via G4ZVJ's NEW ADDRESS! Andy Chadwick, 5 Thorpe Chase, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 1UA, England.

THE DX TOP TWENTY

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

A feeling of sadness and longing,
That is not akin to pain.
And resembles sorrow only -
I missed that one again !

WA6AUD

As I produced the very first CDXC Newsletter back in October, 1983, I felt duty bound to contribute to this, the 100th edition. Back in those early days I had no idea that the publication would develop into it's current form - early issues were written using Wordwise on a BBC micro-computer and all copies were run off on a 9-pin Epson printer, a far cry from the extremely professional publication we enjoy nowadays. The writing was the easy part but, as the circulation increased, the poor old printer used to become white hot during the three or more hours needed to run the newsletters off on tractor-feed paper.

So what was happening CDXC and DX-wise in October 1983 when Issue No. 1 appeared? The local gang were preparing to see Jim Smith's video of the Heard Island DXpedition - 20-odd top DXers attended the G4DYO QTH in early November for that purpose. A small charge was levied to raise funds to help Jim but the few pounds we collected was a far cry from the hundreds of pounds which CDXC now donates annually to DXpeditions. DX bulletins were carrying tales of the commencement of operations by BY4AA and a forthcoming major DXpedition to Malpelo. AD1S and others were readying themselves for a trip to Jarvis Island; the DXCC status of the Pribilof Islands (KL7) was being reviewed by DXAC and a formal announcement was made that a major DXpedition to Clipperton Island would take place in early 1984. As usual, there was always something for the DXer; always the possibility of crossing one off the dreaded "Wanted List" but there were no Clusters or Voicebank in those days - one winkled out the DX alone and spent a fortune on phone bills alerting fellow DXers. If only some of today's embryo DXers would learn these skills instead of waiting for DX to be served up on a plate (i.e. Cluster screen).

During the 12-plus years of the CDXC Newsletter every Current DXCC Country has been activated and even the most rare have had several airings so DXers have had plenty of chances to climb the Honor Roll ladder. Wanted Lists and the prestigious No. 1 Slot on the Honor Roll fill many DXers' thoughts, especially during periods of low sunspot activity and the long winter evenings when the HF bands are quiet. Sure, sunspot minimum is the time to knock up the LF scores, but how many people ever reach HR on 80m, let alone the No. 1 Slot? Furthermore, whilst one's progress up the Honor Roll Ladder depends partially upon one's operating ability and station set-up it depends wholly upon whether the countries on one's wanted list are activated. For those younger DXers for whom Honor Roll is a dream, and for those old-hands who have suffered bad luck and still have the odd "bogey" country, I thought it might be interesting to examine the Wants List published in the last CDXC Newsletter and consider how difficult the top 20 Most Wanted (for Europe) might be.

Many of countries appearing in the "European Top 20" are activated only by DXpeditions, i.e. they have no resident amateurs (in fact some have no residents at all). It follows, therefore, that a missed opportunity may take some years to recover. Typical of such countries are Bouvet and Peter 1st both of which are difficult to reach, both of which involve tremendous expense and (unfortunately for some) both of which have been the subject of good DXpeditions during the last five years. As a result the handful of DXers with the wherewithal to organise major DXpeditions will not have

Bouvet and Peter 1 at the top of their hit lists for a few years yet. On the other side of the coin, the governments of several countries which have previously been extremely difficult to work are showing signs of a more relaxed attitude towards amateur radio so the newer DXers will not have to wait a lifetime for Iraq, Cambodia, Vietnam, etc.

I have checked the Top 20 against my log with the following results:

VK0 Heard Island. Last major DXpeditions took place in 1983 when two groups were active at about the same time and it was a cinch to work them on most bands from Europe. Since then there has been only one amateur operation - that by VK0DA in 1986. He was easy to work from Europe during our afternoons on 20m and could often be heard calling CQ with few takers. I guess that at the time he was active most DXers would have had Heard Island confirmed from the 1983 ops but there are a lot of new DXers now who would give their eye teeth for a QSO. The recent dreadful experiences of the US-led group do not seem to have dampened their fervour. A new, and much better, boat has been chartered and plans are already at an advanced stage for an operation next winter.

VK0 Macquarie Island. This has not been the subject of a major DXpedition during the 20+ years I have been licensed. However, there has been spasmodic activity by amateurs posted into the scientific base on the island and I last worked Macquarie in the shape of VK0GC during the late 80s on 10, 15 and 80m. The 80m QSO was one of the easiest DX QSOs I have made on 80m - morning long path opening at a time when prop to the east of us was fading and all other G's had gone to work. The guys on the island have a great deal of spare time so the place usually gets a good airing when an amateur is there. VK0WH has been active in recent months and can often be heard calling CQ on 20m. (As I write this, in late January, he is working Europe on 14260). A rare one, but no excuse if it's not in your log.

ZL8 Kermadec Island Ah Kermadec! Brings back happy memories of my last one for Honor Roll - tales of the nail-biting ZL8AFH episode were related in an earlier Newsletter. So far as I know, the last major operation was in 1984 but ZL8OY was briefly QRV in April 1986 and, of course, there was the recent fairly low-key operation by ZL8/G4MFW. For various reasons the New Zealand authorities are most reluctant to grant landing permission for amateurs wishing to visit the Kermadec Group and the possession of a licence does not constitute such permission. Furthermore, Kermadec is located in just about the worst place for HF propagation to the UK, although the LF bands have come up trumps in the past. A major DXpedition is in the offing and if you need it you must NOT miss it (see info in this issue).

A5 Bhutan. Every DXer knows the story of Bhutan and of the tireless efforts of Jim Smith, VK9NS, to put this small, mountainous Kingdom back on the amateur bands. For those active prior to 1980 a QSO with Pradhan, A51PN, was not too difficult. I worked him several times on 10, 15 and 20m, but not on LF. Jim Smith operated as A51JS in 1990 and I worked him on 10, CW and SSB. Jim is the world's best at keeping DX bulletins abreast of his exploits so watch DXNS for information on his next A5 operation.

ZL9 Auckland and Campbell Islands. Fairly difficult one this, although there have been several reasonable DXpeditions during the last few years. ZL9AMO and

ZL9BQD were very active in 1988, when I worked them on 15, 20 and 40m, and ZL9AA was QRV in 1985 - got him on 80m. There were question marks about the ZL9DX operation in 1991 and there have recently been several ZL9 pirates, especially on 30m. ZL9GD inadvertently broke DXCC rules through ignorance by operating from a boat. However, his operation a few weeks ago was "legit". Similar in some respects to Kermadec, although I am not aware of any major problems in obtaining operating permission.

FT-Z Amsterdam Islands. We're wholly dependent on French amateurs being posted to the military base. My last QSO was back in 1988 with FT5ZB on 10m. He was quite easy to work from mid-morning onwards on 10m and 20m during our afternoons.

VU Andaman Islands. Another one which the local authorities seem reluctant to allow on the amateur bands! Back in the 70s resident amateur VU7GV was very active and in those days one could have a civilised QSO without fear of a screaming hoard of European crocodiles taking over the channel. Sulu had regular skeds with an SM station and it was fairly straightforward to call in at the end of their natter. Sulu ran a Quad so his signals were always pretty loud. Alas, things have not been too easy since with no amateur activity apart from the DXpeditions in 1987 (VU4GDG and VU4NRO) and a brief operation by Jim Smith from Port Blair last year. The VU-led DXpeditions were easy to work from the UK but there were QSLing problems (sending currency to India is illegal so green stamps are likely to get "lost"). Incidentally, G V Sulu, ex-VU7GV, is now A22GV and working hard to resurrect the Botswana Amateur Radio Society.

3B6, 7 Agalega and St Brandon Is. The 3B8 authorities are reluctant to permit amateurs (any visitors?) to set foot on the islands and the only operations in recent times have been by Mauritius nationals visiting the islands in the course of their work. Last contacts in my log were in 1991 with 3B8CF/3B7 on 12 and 17m. Prior to that, 3B8DO/3B7 in October 81 and 3B6CD in 1979/80.

KH5K Kingman Reef. N9NS/KH5K was active in March, 1993. Prior to that the last major operation was in April, 1988. Kingman Reef barely exists at high tide, and it very difficult to land upon at any time. DXpeditions to the reef involve several days sailing in the Pacific and are therefore costly. Not easy to work from the UK except under conditions of good propagation.

KH4 Midway Island. Midway is a US base, operation from which requires the permission of the base commander. KH4/N7TNL was active in 1992 and KH4AF in 1991 (and later I believe?). Bob Winter, KD7P/KH4 was active in 1985 and 1989. Not too difficult, although the cut back in military activity by the US Government may make this one rarer in future.

3Y Bouvet. Mega-rare. Is there anything else to say? 3Y5X was a major DXpedition mounted during the winter of 1989/90, prior to that I don't know. What I do know is that I'm glad I worked them!

VK9 Willis Island. My last contact was with VK9ZA back in October, 1982 but Jim & Kirsti Smith mounted a DXpedition here in October, 1992, VK9TR was worked in June, 1990 and VK9ZW was active in early 1989. The Jim 1992 effort caused me much heartburn as I failed to work Kirsti on

CW and still need Willis on that mode. (I still need Norfolk Island on CW for that matter!)

KH5 Palmyra and Jarvis Is Again, a major operation is needed to air this one but it shows up every five years or so. AH3C/KH5J in 1990 and W0RLX/KH5 were the last ones in my log. Similar problems as with Kingman Reef.

T31 Central Kiribati. I am not sure why this is No. 14 Most Wanted in Europe when places such as Eritrea, San Felix and Banaba are way below. It sits in a far more realistic position on the world-wide list at No. 75. Last contacts in my log were T31AF in 1991, T31JS by Jim Smith in 1988 and T31AT in 1985 but there are often amateurs on the island and Pacific DXpeditions often stopover here and take the opportunity to put it on the air for a few hours. I can only assume that it's presence at No. 14 is due to the *"I can't work the Pacific"* syndrome, which is prevalent among some of the lower-key DXers. Having worked many Pacific islands on 10m running barefoot to a TA-33 at 20 ft I don't understand that argument! Recent 599+30 operations on 30m by T30DP/T31 on various bands have been dubious, emanating from a location some 90° from that which one would expect.

FT-W Crozet Island. Same comments as for FT-Z. FT8WA in 1986/7 was the last in my log but FT5WE is actually QRV as I write this so Crozet should not feature on the wanted list of any CDXC member.

KH1 Baker & Howland Is. Last major operation was the AH1A operation in January, 1993. Operators included leading UK DXer Ian Shepherd, G4LJF. If you haven't seen the video you shouldn't complain about DXpeditions! NO1Z/KH1 did a FB job in 1988.

KH7 Kure Island. KH6JEB/KH7 and KH6LW/KH7 frequently visited the island during the last ten years to service technical equipment and one or other appears on my annual lists. However, the withdrawal of the LORAN station on the island means that future visits will be few and far between. Bob Winter operated as KD7P/NH7 in December, 1990.

3Y Peter 1st Island. Similar comments to those for Bouvet, except this one has been aired twice during the last ten years. LA1EE and LA2GV signed 3Y1EE and 3Y2GV for the first operation in January, 1987 and the major multi-national 3Y5X team went there in February, 1994. To say that this one is difficult to air would be an all-time understatement and I am somewhat pleased to have it on seven bands! Watch the video and, if you still need it, place your hands together and say after me *"Our Father....."*

7O Yemen The subject of several DXCC status changes, the last reasonable operations were 7O1AA and 7O8AA, both in 1990. Very difficult to activate, but the subject of plenty of rumours on various nets. Much depends on one's standing with the local authorities. E.g. If your callsign is JY1 you stand a better chance than most.

ZS8 Prince Edward & Marion Is. ZS2MI was active in 1980 and the new ZS8 prefix has been aired several times since. Again, activity depends upon the presence of a radio amateur in one of the scientific teams posted to the island. Tours of duty usually last about one year so when there is activity it is often plentiful. If there is no amateur on the team you have to be very patient. Even worse, there was a problem a few years ago when the amateur in one team was

only licensed for VHF. As a result the large number of HF contacts which he made were deemed "unauthorised" and therefore not acceptable for DXCC.

Out of the Top 20 the only ones I have worked on less than 3 bands were ZL8, KH5K and KH5. I'm certainly glad that I was around during the first 12+ years of the CDXC Newsletter - Golden Days during which there was a period when it was possible to make Honor Roll in four years, as several G0s can attest. Let's hope that the next twelve years will be as productive and with a past CDXC Chairman holding permission to operate from P5 we remain optimistic!

(Mni tnx to G3XTT, G4BWP, G4DQW and G4LJF for providing information used in this article).

Ed: See centre pages for pictures of QSL cards for the top twenty countries discussed in Bren's article. Thanks to Bren (and his new scanner!) for providing these pictures..

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

G4DJX	Alan Gray, St. Albans
G4FAM	Chris Henderson, Beckenham
G4KXG	Ken Jackson, Kettering
G4OJH	Andy Giles, Weston Super Mare
VS6VF	Patrick Lam, Lantau Island

The Committee hopes that all of you will enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary.

1995 UK CW DXCC Table

The UK CW DXCC Table is run by Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF, and is updated on a more or less weekly basis. The table is published on the Packet Cluster. Here is a summary of the top scores for 1995.

Bob, G3ZEM, wiped the board with a nine band total of 1,524 points and DXCC on all nine bands! The top nine band scores for each year have been:

1995	G3ZEM	1,524
1994	G4OBK	1,138
1993	G4FAM	1,472
1992	G3WGV	1,309

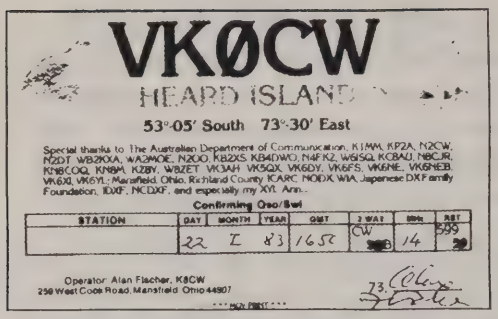
Bob, G3ZEM, also picked up three of the all time band records (80m, 40m and 20m). However, Neil, G4DBN, came out on top on 160m with an amazing 148 countries on CW within the year. No less than six entrants made DXCC on 160m in the year.

At the other end of the spectrum, not surprisingly since we're at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, the previous records for 17m, 15m, 12m, and 10m all stayed firmly in place, although G3ZEM did come within range (-11) of the 15m all-time record.

Despite the low number of sunspots G3ZEM also picked up the all-time record for the number (268) of CW countries worked in the year, just one ahead of Cris G3FAM's total in 1993:

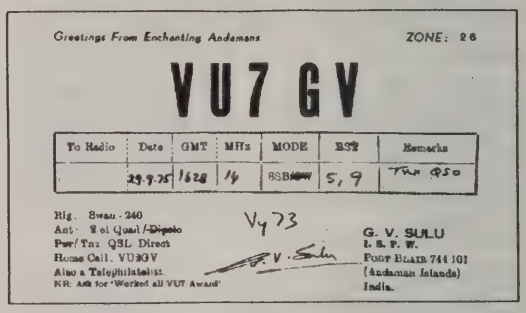
1995	G3ZEM	268
1994	G3VMW	254
1993	G4FAM	267
1992	G3WGV	252

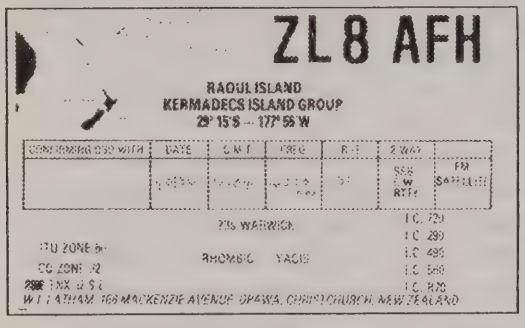
The number of entrants (34) in the final table for 1995 was also an all-time record, showing that there's still plenty of interest in CW DXing!

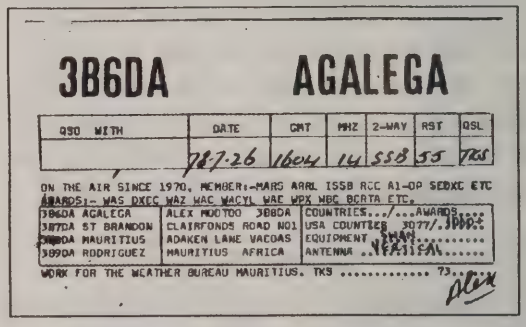

VKØCW
HEARD ISLAND
53°05' South 73°30' East
Special thanks to The Australian Department of Communication, K1MM, KP2A, N2CW, N2DT, WB2KXA, WA2MOE, N2OO, KB2XS, KB4DWO, N4FK2, W9ISQ, KC8AU, N8CJR, KN8COQ, KN8M, KZ8Y, WB2ET, VK3AH, VK5QX, VK6DY, VK6FS, VK6NE, VK6NEB, VK6XI, VK6YL, Mansfield, Ohio, Richland County ICARC, N8DX, WIA, Japanese DX Family Foundation, IDXF, NCDXF, and especially my XYL Ann.
Confirming Oso/Swl
STATION
DAY
MONTH
YEAR
GMT
2 WAY
MHz
RST
22
Z
83
1652
CW
14
599
Operator: Alan Fischer, K8CW
250 West Coon Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44907
73


FB8ZL
NOUVELLE AMSTERDAM
Latitude 37°50' Sud
Longitude 77° Est


MACQUARIE ISLAND
VKØKH
CONFIRMING QSO WITH
KEN HANSON
73

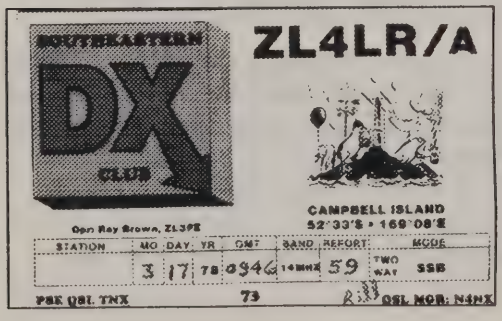

Greetings From Enchanting Andamans
ZONE: 26
VU7 GV
To Radio
Date
GMT
MHz
MODE
RST
Remarks
29.9.75
1628
14
SSB
5, 9
TNX QSO
Rig. Swan - 240
Ant. 2 el Quad /-Dipole
Pwr/Tnx QSL Direct
Home Call. VU3GV
Also a Telephilatelist.
NB: Ask for 'Worked all VUT Award'
V473
G. V. SULU
L. R. P. W.
Post Blair 744 101
(Andaman Islands)
India.


ZL8 AFH
RAOUL ISLAND
KERMADECS ISLAND GROUP
29° 15'S — 177° 55'W
CONFIRMING QSO WITH
DATE
G.M.T.
FREQ.
R.S.T.
2 WAY
SSB
W
RTTY
FM
SATELLITE
ZIS WARRIOR
ITU ZONE 60
CQ ZONE 32
RHOMBIC YAGIS
I.C. 720
I.C. 280
I.C. 495
I.C. 568
I.C. 826
TNX & 73
W.I. ATHAM, 165 MACKENZIE AVENUE, DARFIELD, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND


3B6DA
AGALEGA
QSO WITH
DATE
GMT
MHZ
2-WAY
RST
QSL
7-7-26
1604
14
SSB
55
TKS
ON THE AIR SINCE 1970. MEMBER:-MARS ARRL ISSB ROC A1-OP SEDXC ETC
AWARDS:- WAS DXCC WAZ WAC WACYL WAE WPX MBC BERTA ETC.
3B6DA AGALEGA
ALEX MOCTOO
3B6DA
COUNTRIES.../....AWARDS....
3B7DA ST BRANDON
CLAIRFONDS ROAD NO1
USA COUNTIES XX77/.....
3B8DA MAURITIUS
ADAKEN LANE VACOAS
EQUIPMENT SWAN.....
3B9DA RODRIGUEZ
MAURITIUS AFRICA
ANTENNA VERTICAL.....
WORK FOR THE WEATHER BUREAU MAURITIUS. TKS ..... 73...
Alex


DX ZN 22
BHUTAN
The Land of the Dragon
ITU ZN 41
A51PN
WAC
WPX
DXCC
WWDX
WAJA
NJDXA
WDXA
SLJPCA
Takes pleasure in awarding this Certificate of Merit to :—
RADIO
In recognition of the achievement of having conducted 2 x SSB/CW
communication with this station at 1522 Z, on 10-9 1979
with 14/21/28 MHZ Sigs of RST 44
BOX-168, THIMPHU
TNX QSL
73
H. N. PRADHAN


WA2FIJ/KH5K
KINGMAN REEF DXPEDITION
1980


SOUTHEASTERN
DX
CLUB
ZL4LR/A
Opn Ray Brown, ZL3PE
CAMPBELL ISLAND
52°33'S • 169°08'E
STATION
MO
DAY
YR
GMT
BAND
REPORT
MODE
3
17
78
0946
14MHz
59
TWO WAY
SSB
PSE QSL TNX
73
QSL MGR: N4NX


KM6FC

Canton Island -- Phoenix Islands

KS6DV/KH1

Confirmed by W6KPBN

73, LARRY GANDY
TNX QSO QSL

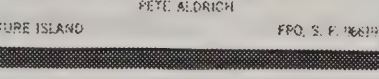
W. G. McDERMOTT
8 PANORAMA ST.,
LAWNTON
QLD. 4501
AUSTRALIA

STATION WILLIS ISLAND
LONGITUDE 149° 59'E
LATITUDE 16° 18' S

REMARKS

TNX QSO QSL 73's

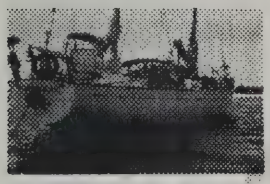
WD8QGQ/KH7



PETE ALDRICH

KURE ISLAND

FPO. S. F. 96519



CQ ham radio

ICOM

JARVIS ISLAND
1990

AH3C/KH5J

Canton Island -- Phoenix Islands
Republic of Kiribati

T3PA

Confirmed by W6KPBN

73, LARRY GANDY
TNX QSO QSL

Zone 31

ARCHIPEL DES CROZET

FB8WE

Opérateur Jean-Claude RICHARD
73 du QSL manager F6APG

SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

ZS2MI

Marion Island

Operator: Gordon Procter, ZS6BQV

STATION	MO	DAY	YR	GMT	BAND	REPORT	MODE
	12	4	78	1530	21	5-8	TWO WAY SSB

PSE QSL TNX 73

QSL Manager: WA4SZU

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Brian Coyne, G4ODV

What to do for CQWW CW contest this year? For most of the past several years I have been able to convince the XYL that summer can be enjoyed at home and that a late holiday in November somewhere warm and sunny makes a lovely break in a very dreary month providing a brief return to summer. Well this year that did not work; by the middle of the year she declared herself exhausted and in need of a holiday now!, so bye bye exotica for CQWW95.

Following the fantastic band conditions on 15m in the SSB event I thought it would be different to do a single band entry on that band. I knew that Jan G0IVZ, a fellow CDXC-er had a 5 ele monobander that was not in use and he readily agreed to me borrowing it. So the decision was made, the next objective was to find a suitable operating site. My home QTH is great from north to south thru east with falling ground, but from north to south thru west is worse than useless with ground rising to 200' in close proximity. In fact there is an interesting article in the Nov/Dec edition of National Contest Journal headed "The Importance Of Local Terrain On The Launch Of HF Signals" by R. Dean Straw N6BV. I would recommend that you borrow a copy of that mag from wherever for an interesting read. It proves what you already know of course, but it's nice to get an explanation and offers some practical ideas.

Various sites were considered and rejected due to lack of mains power, noise pollution from use of generator, possible TVI problems etc. I was discussing the choices with Robin G0MYR another CDXC member and he suggested Perranporth airfield, an old wartime airfield now used for private flying and gliding. Last summer Robin had arranged for the Cornish Radio Club (CRC) to put on a station for VE & VJ days for the local branch of RAFARS, I had been one of the ops and knew it to be an excellent location with a clear 360° take off and, as the airfield is situated overlooking the Atlantic on a high plateau 400' asl, there could be no better take off to North and South America, which were likely to be the most active regions for us here in EU. This was the only accurate assumption of propagation that I was to make, for as we all know the Gods do not smile twice in the same year for this contest.

After the driest and calmest first three weeks of November that I can recall here in Cornwall, the 7 day advance wx forecast on Sunday prior to ww was not good, so it was decided to erect the antenna on the first suitable day. Monday was awful, Tuesday was much better so it was SAG. The airfield is exposed and there were occasional wind gusts but nothing too alarming, with careful preparation it should be a gas. The CRC trailermast is not heavy duty, being used normally for special event affairs and NFD, it erects to 30' to carry wire antennas and does a good job. Here we wanted to carry a 5 ele beam with a 26' boom, a heavy mast head adapter plus a heavy duty rotator, in all more than 1cwt. So we decided to reduce the height to 20' and insert sleeving throughout the total length to re-inforce the tubing.

The shack was to be a caravan close to the Flying Club mess room to pick up the power. Although it is a single storey structure it has an apex roof, so we threw a rope over the rooftop around the chimney and raised a pulley through which was another rope tied to the top of the antenna. The winch on the mast is not a large one and needed all the help it could get, we had taken a two section ladder to help with the erection. The raising of the mast was painfully slow. The first 18' or so of the beam was pre-assembled and fitted to the stub mast, it took an eternity to raise the mast a further 6' to attach the remainder of the boom. The total length including stub

mast was only 23' but the effect of the end weight at that length was dramatic and it was difficult to raise the ladder one rung at a time despite the winch and the pulley rope. Inch by inch it crept upward, bending like a very curved banana, we had to constantly adjust the side guys to prevent a disaster from lateral motion caused by the wind gusts. The base of the mast had now reached 45', it was approaching dark and the ladder now ran out of height so we couldn't raise it any further. The whole thing was lashed down as it was, awaiting our return with a three section ladder.

Overnight I had severe misgivings about continuing with the erection in this manner and was all for lowering it again and removing the head adapter and rotator. Robin who is trained in engineering principles assured me that the project was sound and the point of equilibrium had almost been reached, in the event he was quite right. Wednesday dawned grey, rainy and squally, but by mid-day it had calmed down and the project was successfully completed within an hour or so. My anxiety did not abate until the last guy was lashed, probably more because it was not my own antenna that was at risk. The finished project was very secure with three sets of guys plus a further three ropes attached to the head adapter and looked a handsome sight. Furthermore it never moved despite some very nasty weather over the next five days.

Friday afternoon the caravan was sited and equipment installed and station set up. The antenna controller indicator bulb was not working, but even worse the direction pointer didn't move. Calamity - I can't do anything with that mast single handed. I took out the torch, and was greatly relieved to find antenna had turned. Further experiments confirmed the rotator was fully functioning - the pointer in the rotator must have been jarred during assembly. I knew that in daylight I would be able to see the beam through the window and I already had a mental note of the bearings, crises over.

Then came problem nr 2. The Flying Club official, who was my patron, called me into the mess. He had been speaking to Radio Cornwall on the phone about a feature which was to be done on the airfield the following week and with good intentions of giving our radio club some publicity he mentioned my presence there that weekend and told them I would be engaged in a world-wide competition and they wanted to speak to me. The producer thought it was an interesting project and would I consent to give them an interview?. I said I would be happy to talk to them next week. "No we wish to broadcast it this weekend", so I asked how about Saturday evening when my session will be finished for the day? "You don't understand - we have an 'out and about' feature on Sunday morning and we would like to do a 'live' interview" I stated that I would be heavily involved at that time but he continued to press and assured me that it would last only five minutes. Knowing that to be a gross underestimate, but with my host beaming beside me I could not be so ungracious to refuse, while seeing my call slipping rapidly down the results table in my mind's eye.

By the early evening the station was set up and I was pleased to have solved an RFI problem from the computer which despite using screened leads was causing problems on 15m and particularly severe on 10m. I took an earth wire from the computer casing to a separate ground rod, not wanting to run the wire past the rig and amp to the common earth rod. The result was as clean as a whistle, just why I hadn't thought of this before I don't know. The final check was the amp and everything was looking good. I removed the headset and could hear a Police or ambulance siren, being in a remote location I was curious about the cause, there are few buildings there was nothing around but the noise was still pulsing away steadily, not receding at all. Then the penny dropped,

my RF had triggered the burglar alarm in the clubhouse. Those old Cornish buildings are very well built. With thick walls and double glazing the noise level was remarkably low considering that I was right next to it. Again I was saved, I had been left a key in order to use the facilities and had been shown where the alarm key was kept in case I didn't follow the exit procedure correctly. Inside, the noise was incredible, that alarm may not have attracted any attention outside but would frighten any intruder to death.

Saturday - contest day is here at last - what's in store, I wonder? Eager to get started, up at 5am. Wishful thinking, just white noise - check 20m to gauge how long before 15 will open - quite a time yet from sound of things. 0630 start to hear a few pings, switch on the amp and then go to de-activate that alarm. 0645 first sigs come through, east EUs working JAs but don't make first QSO until 0713 and the band only starts to open for UK at 0745. 1000z, the pattern is we are hearing first bounce at about 2500km no EU except the odd OH and weak backscatter. All sigs coming from south of east and later USA sigs are due west, these curved paths continue all weekend. DX sigs from south Asia and Africa are strong but Japan never made it.

1130z. 'Knock Knock' "Would you kindly cease transmitting for a while as one of our members is trying to make a long distance call negotiating purchase of an aircraft and your Morse is blocking everything out". I go in to placate any ruffled feathers and am shown how I have been driving the wind gauge readings crazy and one or two facial expressions indicate that this antenna is a rather different beast from the G5RV with 100w which had been used last time out. I spend the next 25 minutes searching for mults and banging them into the memories before I get the go ahead again. Unknown to me my benefactor had indicated that any further urgent calls could be made on the club mobile phone, normally used for emergencies, and hang the expense - what a kind man! 1300z I have 72 countries and 26 zones but only 150 contacts in the log. I've got used to the beam by now and it is very, very sharp, signal strengths increase/ decrease rapidly with only the slightest movement of the rotator. The rig is a late model TS930 only recently acquired. Initially I was calling too low, failing to net on correctly - I had failed to appreciate that CW on this rig is in LSB mode so I engaged the 250hz filter after that and cracked most piles first or second call. No ZLs were heard and the only VK was very weak and calling someone else and failed to respond to my request to move up. The afternoon improved with contacts to North America and a VK6 was worked off the back. Conditions fell away steadily after 1600 with only Central America remaining, last contact was V47KP at 1748.The best rate for the day was 106 between 15-1600z Total QSOs for the day were 400, let's hope that tomorrow will be better.

Band conditions on Sunday proved to be pretty much the same, first contact at 0710, but very slow. The weather was foul, with thunder, lightening, extremely heavy rain showers and very strong gusts of wind I doubted that I would be seeing the fliers today. Shortly after 0800z I ran across VK2APK who had a good signal but is making a terrible fist of his pile, picking out only partials and not persisting with any of them and making very few contacts. Calling in I got an ODV ODV?, then again repeated followed by 599 30, not sure he had the full call I asked for cfm but then he went on to numbers asking for 9-0-9-8-7-6 in quick succession and working nobody. Frustrated and dissatisfied I decided to go back in 5 minutes or so. This time I got G4 G4? then after calling again, got QSO B4, again no full call given out. Then despite the bedlam of callers he had, he started to call 'CQ test' again and I gave up on him, either he is a dupe or I didn't work him at all. I can appreciate that, because EUs could not work

each other, due to the absence of short skip, the concentration of callers in the DX pile ups would be greatly increased, but that didn't slow down the majority of DX ops because they were listening up.

0900z. Approaching peak morning time. Again no path to JA, obviously as the band was dropping out around 1600z local time, being 9 hours behind puts us out of sync, it closes there before it opens here, and this also explains the small number of zone 3 calls logged.

'Knock Knock' - it's the Radio Cornwall car. The engineer said we have to wait for the slot and would get a couple of minutes notice (the slot actually went out at 1005) so after answering his queries and making him a cup of tea I managed only 13 contacts before the broadcast, most of them with Ukraine. Back into the fray for half an hour or so when 'Knock Knock' - "Hello my name is Sam (something or other). I'm a photographer for the Western Morning News. I was on an assignment in Perranporth and was listening to the car radio - could I take a few Photographs? I think our readers would be interested etc.". By this time I'm feeling like Victor Meldrew, 'I don't beleeeeve this' and thinking if Murphy doesn't get you one way then he will try anything to get you another. The equipment had been working perfectly and poor conditions are similar for everyone in the same region. More explanations, a whole reel of film, but he didn't want to go out in the rain to snap the antenna, and I don't get back on air until 1100z. In the two hour period 09-1100z I make only 28 QSOs compared with 88 the previous day, what have I missed?

1130z VK3ZC oh blessed relief 2 more mults and I don't need to brood on the 'APK' mess. 1145z AH0T strength 3/4 working EU, several calls but don't raise him - experience of the weekend now says something is wrong, so I swing the beam around to sw and he is S9, and bag him straight away. I kick myself for not trying LP earlier, possibly missed ZL, two more mults down the pan.

So the day continued with still due west path to USA, even the zone 2 station faded away as the ant was turned towards the north. Contact rates were down on Saturday, lots of dupe callers (unexpected these days from USA). Best rate of the day was 56, wow!

The final contact was into PY at 1732 then the white noise took over the band once more. The final count gave a very disappointing net QSO total of only 683 producing 1673 points with 110 countries and 33 zones. I never did hear z32. Couldn't fault the antenna, every DX station heard and called was worked, possibly the addition of a vertical may have bagged a few of those back scatter EUs and filled in some of the large gaps in my European map. The average pts/QSO of almost 2.5 shows just how few EU contacts were made.

Monday am. Called into the newsagents and picked up copy of WMN along with my usual paper. Sure enough on page 5 a massive photograph with a big headline "Ham Tries To Break The Code" The story commenced with the words "Is there anybody out there?" and although I had made no comment or suggestion that conditions were poor, that comment summed up my feelings for much of the weekend. When I showed the story to Robin, who happens to be PRO for the CRC he commented that it was typical that this attention should be given when it isn't appreciated whereas when he contacted the local media regarding the VE/VJ events they failed to show any interest. I am only thankful that the publicity was favourable to the hobby. I'm told that the radio spot sounded good, I consciously avoided any jargon and the WMN must get 8 out of 10 for accuracy in their cover story.

Later the antenna was brought down safely and smoothly in less than 10 minutes and with no sign of bending, there must be an explanation for that.

Monday evening, I had a chat with John K4BAI who was QRV in ww as 8P9Z, His 15m count was 1650 QSOs, 88 countries and 28 zones and he was a multi band entry. Oh to be in the tropics, although they don't get miracles even there as he didn't make a single contact with Europe on 10m.

EU007 GREAT BLASKET ISLAND

UK PacketCluster Network

Hello IOTA Gang. Those of you who missed our 1993 operation from The Great Blasket Island EU-007 might be interested to know that we intend operating from the island again in June of this year. Most probable dates are June 7th to June 10th inclusive. Callsign will be EJ7NET. More details closer to the trip.

73's de Declan EI6FR and the West Net DX Group

QSL MANAGER

Dick "Kash" Kashdin, WB2RAJ, President of the Western NY DX Association, and QSL Manager for EM3W, FK5DX, FK8GM, J39BW, ST2/G4OJW, ST2AA and ST0K, offers his services as QSL Manager to active DX stations, DXpeditioners, and contesters.

Dick may be contacted via packet cluster at KN2M, at his BBS:

WB2RAJ@KE2VW.#WNY.NY.USA.NA, or via Internet: the599rpt@aol.com.

IOTA CONTEST

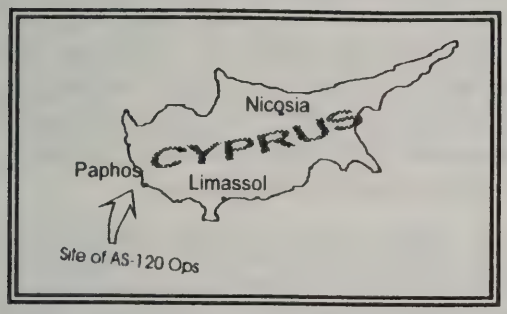
As members will be aware, CDXC sponsors the Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy for the annual IOTA Contest. The trophy is awarded to the highest scoring non-DXpedition island station and congratulations go to recent winners, who were:

1994: Red Dragon Contest Group - GW8GT
1995 EI4GK Group, from near Dublin

Have *YOU* got an IOTA Directory?

IOTA DXPEDITIONS TO AS-120

By Marios Nicolaou, 5B4WN



1st IOTA DXpedition to Moulia Rocks

Philip Marsh, G4WFZ, a member of the IOTA Committee, organised the first DXpedition, which took place from Yeronisos Island in May, 1995. However, due to technical problems the operation lasted only two hours. The demand by IOTA chasers urged Stavros, 5B4AFM, to begin organising another DXpedition to one of the Cyprus islands with the reference AS-120. After a hard effort and with the help of Nestoras, 5B8AH, Stavros managed to organise everything and obtain sponsors to help with the cost of the operation. The island of choice was Moulia Rocks, located about 1.5 km from the shore of Kato Paphos, measuring about 35 metres in length and 6 metres wide, it resembles a piece of rock which has been thrown in the sea. Under the flag of 5B4NC, and using the name Nicosia Contest Group, we set the date for the event as 10-13 July. The operators to take part were 5B4AFM, 5B8AH, 5B4WN (Marios), 5B4WS (Agis) and 5B4XF (Paris). 5B4NA (Tasos) took charge as cameraman and 5B4FM's father and uncle were responsible for transport from the shore to the rocks and back.

The big day arrived. Full of excitement we set off from Nicosia carrying all the equipment and arrived at Paphos by midday. Having loaded the boat with enough supplies to last us for three days we set sail for the island. The sea at that point was calm and there were no suggestions of any possible deterioration in weather conditions.

Landing on the island was very easy and soon the pile of gear was on solid rock - 2 generators, 2 verticals, 1 tent, 2 tables, 6 chairs, 2 HF stations with tuners and other accessories. As soon as darkness fell, all the external work had finished. What was left was the setting up of the radio equipment in the tent. It was not much later that we realised that one of the verticals refused to tune up. We did not spend too much time on it but quickly set up the other station. At about 1800z Stavros put C4MI, AS-120, on the air. Very soon the pile ups had become very fierce and split frequency operation using call areas had to be employed; it was obvious that there were IOTA DXers from all over the world waiting for us. The log pages were filling up at an amazing rate, but soon 20m SSB packed up. 5B4WN then took over, changing from SSB to CW. The pile-ups were huge and, with amazing propagation to North America, CW seemed to return the best QSO rate.

At about 5am, after 6 hours on the air and 900 QSOs, including at least 450 US stations, in the log, Stavros gave us the bad news: the sea had become very rough and the situation was worrying. We switched off the rig and examined the situation more fully. The sky was full of clouds and the wind was strong. We decided to wait before packing everything away in hope of the sea calming. It was our bad luck that the sea became worse with waves splashing over the island! The solution was obvious: we carefully placed the HF gear into waterproof containers and decided to call off the operation. The weather forecast was also discouraging, with a further deterioration expected.

Having packed everything and placed it on the only piece of the island which was dry, we waited for help to arrive. Unfortunately the heavy seas would not permit the

approach of the boat close enough to load gear onto so we decided to wait for an improvement in the weather. Being stranded on this island was not funny, especially watching the waves lap over what had been our operating position.

Having stayed for about 4 hours, unable to do anything, the sight of the boat was the most pleasant we had had for some time. The rescue operation had begun. A large, heavy and most ingenious "anchor" (a plough!) was thrown into the sea and Agis, 5B4WS, swam "navy seal" style to the island holding a rope to help stabilise the boat from the island. Then, using a smaller boat, the equipment was transferred, piece by piece, to the bigger boat. After half an hour everything had been loaded and with tiredness and anxiety obvious in our eyes we set off for the shore. It was an interesting experience that HAD to be repeated!

2nd DXpedition to Manijin Island

The disappointment of the many IOTA chasers who missed the C4MI operation, as well as the size of the pile ups we encountered, urged us to organise a second operation from the AS-120 group. Moulia Rocks was ruled out and much attention was paid to Yeronissos Island and Manijin Island. However, even though the former was big enough and looked a good operating place, the Archaeological Department refused our application due to the presence of archaeological findings in recent years. That left us with Manijin, the name of which meant trouble. The date was set for 13 August with operators 5B4WN, 5B4WS, 5B4XF and 5B4KH for this C4MA operation. In the absence of sponsors the Nicosia Radio Club funded part of our expenses, which included the hiring and operation of the generator for 2-3 days. Vassos, 5B4SF, took charge as transporter from the shore to the island using his fibre-glass boat.

The 13 August arrived and all equipment was packed and ready at Peyia for the new venture. With the help of 5B4NM the boat was launched and soon we set sail for the island. It was not much later that we discovered problems in unloading the equipment. Luckily, though, we had an inflatable boat which we used to transfer equipment to the island, similar to the rescue technique used at Moulia Rocks.

The island was quite big, compared to Moulia Rocks, represented by a large group of unconsolidated rocks. There was nothing growing on the island and the only inhabitants were wild pigeons which nested in cavities in the rocks.

With two hours of light left we left exploration of the island until next day. The antenna was quickly erected and the operating position was selected among the rocks. It was 1638z when C4MA went on the air. 5B4WN then 5B4XF then 5B4WS all took turns bringing satisfaction and delight to the IOTA chasers as they worked us. Darkness fell quickly and the bands soon died out. With a little CW activity we waited until 20m opened at dawn. However, the band seemed to stay dead well into the morning, but this turned out to be a problem with the radio.

At midday the sun was high in the sky and the heat was becoming unbearable. With one operator at the mic, the other two took a closer look at the island. Having been surprised by its serene beauty we decided to try our luck at fishing. 5B4WS's voice could be heard 5 km away as he proudly held up a 15 cm long multicoloured fish!

At 1100z we held a meeting. The radio was not working properly so we decided to call off the operation. It was not much later that Marios, 5B4VX called us, on behalf of 5B4SF, on 2m. We told him about the situation and our decision. Soon afterwards we started packing up and by 1500z we

were ready to go. We loaded the equipment the usual way and headed for port. It was there that we met 5B4KH, who had just come from Nicosia to operate. During our 19-hour operation C4MA worked about 1,700 stations from all over the world. To those IOTA chasers who missed AS-120, all we can say is that we will try to return this year.

Special thanks go to our sponsors from the first operation: Louis Tours, Carlsberg and Kenwood. 5B4NC for helping with expenses for the second operation; our QSL manager 5B4KH; our "sea captains" Mr Andreas Tsiakkouris and Panayis 5B4SF; cameraman 5B4NA; 5B4MB for hospitality in Paphos; GCT Varnakides for loaning us the batteries, and many others without whom these operations could never have happened.

ELECTRONIC QSLs

John Krzymuski, G4DQW

While it would be nice to imagine a utopian world where prestige awards were made on the word of the applicant, without QSLs being required, in reality this is unlikely to be happening and applicants are still going to be required to produce verification of QSOs. Collecting QSL cards will always hold interest for some radio amateurs and, while the challenge of defeating the vagaries of the world's postal systems will be a thrill to others, the increasing use of Email, Packet radio, Internet and other electronic media makes it less and less sensible for DXers to participate in the expensive and seemingly endless paper chase in order to confirm QSOs for award purposes.

The technology now exists, not just to provide unforgettable electronic QSLs, but also to automate the whole process of generating and then checking them. Just think what this could mean to DXers and also the long-suffering QSL checkers!

First of all, imagine an electronic QSL manager. A DX station log is placed on a computer and programmed to automatically send an electronic QSL to a valid request submitted, for example, by Email or packet radio. Already, numerous packet radio servers exist to automate requests for information files, callbook details, satellite passes and so on. Generating electronic QSLs requires no great technical advances. Just imagine - No more greenstamps, SAEs, months of waiting, second requests, etc. !

Of course the obvious question is "How do I prove the electronic QSL is genuine?"

Public key cryptography techniques and software programs are now widely available to do just this. The technology has been driven by the need to authenticate documents (e.g. a signed contract) sent electronically, as well as to prevent their repudiation. In Public key cryptography a sender (DX station) publishes a "public" key and maintains its own secret key. Anyone can use the public key to verify the authenticity of a QSL, which has been generated with the secret key. (Contrast this with more "traditional" methods where all parties need to have the same secret key to encode and decode messages).

The QSL sent electronically by the DX station has a "digital signature" attached. Initially, a message digest of the QSL is computed, similar in concept to a checksum. The message digest represents the QSL, such that if the message were altered in any way, a different message digest would be computed from it. This makes it possible to detect any changes made to the message by a forger. A message digest is computed using a cryptographically strong one-way hash function. It would be computationally unfeasible for a forger to devise a substitute message that would produce an identical message digest. However, a message digest alone is not enough to authenticate a message. The message digest algorithm is

publicly known, and does not require knowledge of any secret keys to calculate. If all we did was attach a message digest to the QSL, then a forger could alter a QSL and simply attach a new message digest calculated from the new, altered QSL. To provide full authentication, the sender must also encrypt (sign) the message digest with his or her secret key.

In practice then, a message digest is calculated from the QSL by the sender. The DX station's secret key is then used to encrypt the message digest and an electronic timestamp, forming a digital signature. The sender sends the digital signature along with the QSL. A typical QSL may look like this: (PGP stands for "Pretty Good Privacy" and is a free and widely available program for implementing Public key cryptography)

BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE
A5/G4DQW is pleased to confirm the following QSO(s):
Call Date UTC Band Mode RS(T)
G2KJI 20-Feb-96 0651 80 CW 599
G2KJI 21-Feb-96 0754 40 SSB 59
G2KJI 23-Feb-96 1604 15 SSB 59
73 & GL John G4DQW
BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE
Version: 2.6.2i
i0iIImUBMKTIj8XVNA2scbpNaQEfYQP+KJ
Ln1/P5CyEJqXDUqYVLOszaEZ
o2TsD3knb3nKKMnvqV98UNhbOV2SvFXU
RE/ZjM4X9CIgBDsa8qd+dwHTS8O2/pTY&
6668JKJ88njhtRew$55pO0IcgqYTLm93BXc
8pqaZqPxx3cUfNia=/aDE18L
END PGP SIGNATURE-----

The recipient receives the QSL and using the DX station's public key, can quickly and easily check that the QSL has not been altered and that it did indeed originate from G4DQW.

(Technically, security is extremely high: a potential forger would have to either produce an altered message that produces an identical message digest (which is unfeasible), or he would have to create a new digital signature from a different message digest - also unfeasible without knowing the true sender's secret key. The degree of security depends only on the confidence you have that the public key came from the real sender).

The public keys would also be gathered by the various awards committees and used to authenticate submitted electronic QSLs. Most of this can be automated.

I believe that anything that allows DXers to escape the tyranny of the QSL paper chase will be of benefit not just to DXErs but to all radio amateurs needing verification of QSOs. This would be an ideal opportunity for CDXC to advocate and contribute to a development certain to provide great benefits to many DXErs. How about CDXC awards accepting electronic QSLs ? RSGB/IOTA already accepts user-generated computer input and automated record keeping. How about CDXC lobbying RSGB/IOTA to accept electronic QSLs as well? How about CDXC supporting CDXC expeditioners in generating electronic QSLs? Wouldn't it be great to have CDXC lead the DX community into the 21st century?

M1OOG - THE QSL MARATHON

Mike Potter G4PFF

With over 16,000 QSOs logged, and having advised all the operators that we would QSL 100%, a major task was presented to Alan G3PMR as QSL Manager. In previous years of GB1OTA and GB301OTA all the operators logs from either the Convention or home QTH operators have been imported into SHACKLOG from other logging programs, with a few having to be manually entered as they were not in electronic form. This year was no different except the volume looked like swamping the volunteer effort.

Even though QSL card labels are produced in correctly sorted order for the bureau, the task of fixing them to each card seemed

daunting. Not to mention the cost of both the cards and labels. Fortunately a solution was found as those who receive cards will see. The answer, sprocket fed perforated QSL cards to suit a normal dot matrix printer - QSL information being printed directly on to the rear of the card by SHACKLOG, thus obviating the need for labels. Yaesu UK kindly agreed to sponsor the cards and provided a suitable photo. (Thanks Barry G4RKO). Through contacts in my salt mine the cards were produced from rough design through proofs and finally printed for both M1OOG & GB5HQ (used at the HF Convention in the WAE SSB contest).

Other than the speed of the printer and the need to keep check on the rapidly building pile of cards on Alan's floor the task was easily accomplished.

So is it an alternative for normal use? Maybe, but I would suggest the most sensible use is for a major DXpedition to QSL via bureau as economics come into play with the larger volumes of cards.

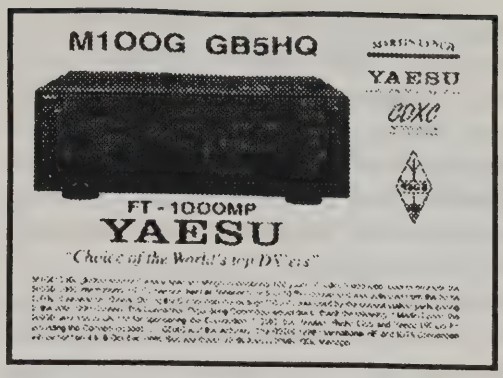
If anyone thinks they would be interested in more details and to discuss the economics then let me know. Alternatively think about sticking 16000 labels in the same place on cards. Having done some of it I know my preference !

The sooner we bring in database QSO verification systems the better for all except the friendly pilferers in the world postal services.

TECHNICAL DETAILS OF CARDS

18,000 on continuous white 145 gsm Index board 5.5" wide X 4" deep, presented 3 to view on 5.5" x 12" fanfold perforated vertically at 1/2" margins and horizontally at 4". Printed 2 colour.

Produced by Abbey Hine Ltd of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk



NORTH KOREA (DPRK), P51DX

UK PacketCluster Network

The DPRK project group has been busy maintaining multiple contacts and discussing additional steps required to establish amateur radio in the DPRK and make P51DX QSOs available for Deserving. This week's tentative trip to the DPRK has been re-scheduled to the second half of April because of a variety of reasons. Among them are that currently there are only sporadic flight connections from Beijing. An exceptionally severe winter is affecting the normal life in the DPRK.

Following the visit by the DPRK amateur radio delegation to Beijing during the recent Beijing DX Convention, a major donation of amateur radio related equipment was shipped to the DPRK Amateur Radio Association. The April delegation to the DPRK will be headed by Mr. Chen Ping, BA1HAM, Deputy Secretary General of the CRSA and an organiser of the successful Scarborough Reef operations.

The DPRK project is involving the CRSA, utilising the good relations between these two countries. The underlying aim of the DPRK project is to establish permanent activity with the large base of radio communications enthusiasts that are currently involved in ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) as well as in class room Morse competitions.

A PRACTICAL 4 SQUARE ARRAY FOR 40m

Dave Lawley G4BUO

The four-square array of phased verticals has been described in several places, including ON4UN's Low Band DXing books and most recently by Bob G3PJT in RadCom. I don't propose to go into full design details here, but just to give an account of how I have implemented a four-square. In a recent edition of the FOC magazine Focus I described the original 40m four square which I used from November 1994 to March 1995. This first version was very much a prototype, and at the end of March I removed it to make cutting the grass easier. In November of 1995 I erected a re-engineered version which will be a more permanent fixture.

The 4 square is an extremely effective DX antenna. More forward gain can be had from a Yagi, but it has to be up at least 80ft to give of its best. Also, a four square permits instant direction switching. Using the four square I have seldom had any trouble cracking pileups and it has been easy to work long-path W6/7 in the winter months. Front to back ratio on low angle signals is at least 3-4 S units, and side rejection is even better. After a few weeks of using the antenna it is possible to tune across 40m and be reasonably certain where the various signals are coming from without having to wait until they sign their calls. We have also used an 80m four square at G0KPW in 1994 and 1995 in the CQ World-wide SSB contest, with spectacular success.

The first thing to realise is that full-sized quarter wave radials are not mandatory. Most DXers know how well Chris G4BUE gets out on 40m, and his 4-square is squeezed into a garden no more than 50ft wide (although with a few radials straying outside of his boundary). In my case I have chosen a maximum radial length of 20ft, which means that the array can be fitted within a 75ft by 75ft square plot. This still represents a considerable area, but Chris's experience shows that very good results may be had from a smaller plot. My tower and 160m mast are both just over 30ft from one corner of the array and there appears to be some interaction when I'm beaming east, as evidenced by slightly higher SWR, but it certainly does not prevent me getting out very well in that direction.

In the original version of my array, the radiating elements were four 33ft verticals made of assorted tubing guyed about 25ft up and supported at the bottom on 3 inch square wooden posts which had been driven 2ft into the ground. PVC water pipe was split and wrapped around the tubing for insulation at the point where the elements were lashed to the posts. To reduce clutter in the garden I wanted the new version to use self-supporting elements. They are located in ground sockets made of 2ft lengths of scaffold tube, set in concrete just below the surface. Over the years, one or two of my lengths of scaffold have acquired slight curves, and this material has at last found a use in ground sockets! The bottom section of each radiator is a 5ft length of (straight) aluminium scaffold and I use 1.5 inch diameter fibreglass tube, available from Deecom, as a base insulator. A PVC domestic waste-pipe fitting spaces the radiator a couple of inches above the ground socket. The fibreglass tube is a sliding fit inside scaffold tubing and has sufficient strength to support the elements without guying. The remainder of each element is made of 12ft of 1.5in aluminium tube, and the top half is a whip section which tapers to 1/4in inch.

All elements were assembled together to ensure their lengths were identical. For a design frequency of 7.02MHz the 234/f formula gave a height of 33ft 4in and this has been used as the starting height for each radiator. Exact resonance is less important than the need to keep all lengths the same.

The sides of the square should be a free-space quarter wavelength, 35ft 2in, and the way to check that it is truly square is to measure the diagonals which should be 49ft 8.5in. It would also be possible to construct the array of wire either suspended from trees, or hanging from catenary lines radiating from a central tower. In my case the self-supporting elements and concrete socket allow easy removal of the radiators so that the grass may be cut. This also requires the radials to be below ground. So far they have been left trailing on the surface but by cutting the grass short and pegging them down, or in some cases slotting into the ground, they will disappear in the spring as the grass starts to grow. I am left to wonder what the next owners of this property will make of grids of wires just below the surface if they should start to dig up the grassed areas!

At the base of each antenna the radials are soldered to a ring of 12 gauge copper wire. Soldering outside in the January weather has proved possible by using two irons in parallel: neither the gas-powered iron nor the mains thermostatic iron (with temperature turned right up) were up to the task on their own, but did a good job in tandem. Diagonal wires connect each base to the geometrical centre of the array, which is where the phasing unit is located. In addition to the diagonal wires there are seven 20ft radials spaced 45 degrees from one another, and a further sixteen 10ft radials filling in every 15 degrees in between. It is important to get a high density of radials close-in to the feedpoint, where ground return currents are highest. Total length of radial wire is nearly 1,300 feet. If wire is in short supply, conventional wisdom is to go for more short radials in preference to few long ones. Conveniently, the boundaries of my garden run NW-SE and NE-SW so I was able to align the sides of the square with the boundaries which places the main lobe in a direction of 0, 90, 180 or 270 degrees.

Feed is by means of four 75 ohm quarter wave sections. Standard coax with solid polythene dielectric won't do because of the velocity factor: an electrical quarter wave won't be long enough for all four feed lines to meet at the centre. I use CT125 cable TV coax available from Maplin. This is of semi air-spaced construction similar to Westflex. It is also on the surface at present but is shortly to be buried a couple of inches below the surface. Both ends are well insulated and taped: if water gets into the air cells between inner and outer the coax will be ruined. I am envious of the Americans who seem to have vast quantities of foam-filled CATV hardline available for this sort of job. Anyone know of a source over here? I found that G3LDO's method of cutting cable lengths using the 3M impedance measuring box gave the most precise results. Use of the 3M box is described in his Antenna Experimenters Guide.

Commercial phasing units for four-square arrays made by Comtek are readily available, but I decided to home-brew. Bob G3PJT uses the Lewallen approach to phasing, but he once told me that to avoid stray coupling you need to switch both the outer and inner of each coax. The Collins hybrid approach, used by Comtek, seems more tolerant of variations so I constructed one as described in ON4UN's book. The capacitors were made up of Semco mica units, plus mica compression trimmers for fine adjustment. There are no high RF voltages within the phasing unit. Currents are high but I have found 10 amp relays to be fine for the job. A 50 ohm dummy load is needed in the Collins system but if the array is set up correctly, little power will be wasted. A two-wire control line is all that is needed for direction switching: supply positive d.c. volts to turn the array clockwise, negative d.c. volts to reverse the array, and a.c. volts to operate both relays together to turn the array anti-clockwise. I chose the 'off' direction to be west, since if the switching system fails during a contest, that is the way I would

rather be beaming. The original array showed good directivity (and presumably gain) even before the radials outside the square were installed. I only had wires connecting each corner, plus some additional wires forming a grid within the square. So, even if you only have a 35ft square area available, this antenna could still be worth a try. For those with more real estate an 80m four square is a real winner. N4AR, with plenty of real estate, is running one of these antennas on topband with great results. There is a bonus with my 40m antenna: it has directivity also on 30m: although some power will be lost in the 50 ohm resistor, I have been getting good results when using the rig barefoot on that band.

THE CONSTANTS

(The following tale was published by OH2NB, OH2BH, OH2RF and OH2BN following the first operation from M-V Island - 4J1FS. Its moral is just as true today).

Working a new one is always a matter of great excitement relished by true believers - all the more so if it's a brand-new country on the air for the first time ever. With M-V Island now officially added to the DXCC Countries List, we would like to share with you the following story, perhaps recalling the words of an inimitable DX writer known to us all:

Some of us had been noting that the Old Timer was looking a bit pale and last week he failed to show for the weekly club gathering. We marked the time, sensing that it might be a watershed. One of the local QRPers finally broke the long silence. "I hear someone is on from M-V Island for an all time new one", he said. In the silence that followed we could hear a dog bark down in the valley. "M-V... that's an island in the Baltic Sea near the city of Vyborg", the QRPer went on, conviction not especially notable in his voice. But that was a couple of days back and this week the Old Timer was right back with us. There were some who were surprised and one finally spoke. "When you did not show up last week, we thought that maybe.... that something...." and the QRPers voice tailed off but we knew the words.

"Last week?" said the Old Timer, "I was at home working M-V Island". There was a bit of silence at this. "But what about the constants?" asked one QRPer and the Old Timer was right back to ask what these might be. "Well, the ones you told us about a week or so back. Those words about the love of one's country, the love of home and family... and especially these weekly club meetings... all these being the touchstones of our lives, the fibre which knits us DXers together", the QRPer said - and there was a touch of reproach in his voice. One gets that way at times when there is concern and then it is found to be unfounded. We waited for the Old Timer to speak and he nodded solemnly at the words of the QRPer.

"You are absolutely right", he said. "And without these constants you mentioned we are no better than the animals who roam the forests". We pondered these word for, many times when the Old Timer has spoken, we have been touched to note that his words often point to the core of man's existence. "And those are the eternal and unchanging constants", the Old Timer continued, "those are the constants that you correctly noted. And the fellows on M-V Island... they were variable. In the final analysis, if you value your DXCC standing, you have to go with the variables. Go with the full legal limit and with the speech-processor wide open. For the constants are with us all the days of our lives, whereas the variables are not. Those variables I mentioned earlier... well, they left M-V Island ten minutes after I worked them. Five-nine both ways".

Son of a Gun! What does one say in a situation like this? Only that DXers are the true believers - there are no sceptics on the DXCC roster, that's for sure!

THE EMC STANDARD FOR COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

At the time of writing, this Standard is in the phase known as Public Enquiry, which ends, as far as the UK is concerned, on March 8th. The committee which produced it was chaired by DL5KCZ from DARC.

There are a number of areas where I believe the Standard could be improved, and one major area which is, I believe, totally wrong. This one is the requirements for radiation from the antenna terminals of a receiver, which is specified as -57 dBm for all frequencies below 1 GHz. The nearest other standard for equipment like this is for broadcast receivers, and there is no requirement below 30 MHz in that one. -57 dBm makes direct conversion receivers very difficult: if a limit is needed, then -20 dBm is adequate for HF, where atmospheric noise levels are very high.

The other requirements, for transient protection, surges and all the rest, are tests that aren't so difficult for a lot of equipment. If for example, we look at something powered from a wall adaptor with a lead length less than 3m, then the wall adaptor has the test made on it, not the equipment. And who uses headphone, mic and key leads longer than 3m? So actually, for the small manufacturer, the requirements are a lot simpler than they first appear.

Even more interesting is that a manufacturer can self certify. This means doing a certain number of tests, and keeping a record of the test procedures and results - in fact, it really boils down to just doing the engineering in a proper professional manner. Obviously, you need some test gear, but no more than you ought to have if you're going to do a professional job anyway.

The one area where a manufacturer could come unstuck is on the requirements (in other standards) regarding what can be impressed back onto the mains. There are various standards for that, although generally speaking, reasonable design of power supplies is all that is desired. There are, for examples, limits as to how much DC can be put on the mains - so a voltage multiplier for HT in a linear could be a problem unless it is a full wave type.

Unfortunately, by the time that this gets into print, it will be too late for CDXC members to comment. RSGB have offered to host the Resolution Meeting, where all the comments are discussed: this meeting is only open to representatives of companies who are members of ETSI, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (which RSGB isn't - but enough members of the relevant committees work for member companies). DARC is, of course a member - which costs around £5000 per year, without the added cost of sending people to meetings.

So what's the bottom line? To me, there's really no need for the small manufacturer to have a problem, unless he isn't technically competent. The only place that he could have a problem with is making out the EMC Test Plan to ensure that the standard is covered - and this is pretty straightforward. For the big manufacturer, it certainly shouldn't be an excuse to raise prices. The fact that kits are covered is a two edged sword - it may be irritating for radio amateurs, but it also applies to kits that can cause interference.

Peter E. Chadwick MIEEE G3RZP

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The following are additional email addresses of members:

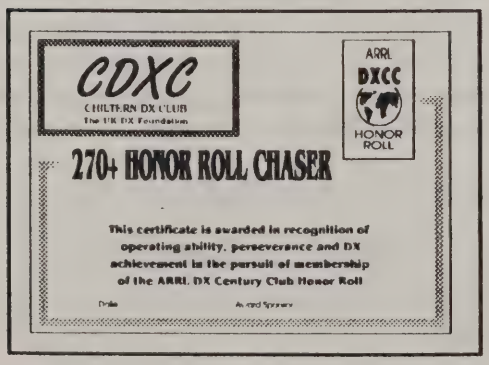
BRS32525	101526.1041@compuserve.com
G4FAM	100702.32@compuserve.com
GI0OTC	alan@gi0otc.demon.co.uk
I1JQJ	i1jqj@filcita.it

HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

This is the third publication of the Honor Roll Chaser's table. Rules for entry were given in the January Newsletter. All numbers in the table are for *confirmed* DXCC countries. Positions in the table are based on *current mixed* score (confirmed). The table will be published again in the July Newsletter. *Please note that those who last updated in July 1995 who wish to stay in the next table should let me have an update, even if it is no change.*

CALL	UPDATED	CW *		SSB		MIXED	
		Current	Total	Current	Total	Current	Total
G3NOF	MAR-96			327	363	327	363
GM3BQA	JUL-95			326	355	326	355
G3TXF	JUL-95	321	330	305	322	324	342
G4YRR	NOV-95	222	222	318	323	318	323
GM4UZY	MAR-96			318	323	318	323
G4CJY	MAR-96					317	321
G4OBK	NOV-95	297	301	294	298	317	321
G3LHJ	MAR-96	290	295			313	340
G4NXG/M	NOV-95			313	318	313	318
G3RZP	MAR-96					312	317
G0LRJ	MAR-96			312	316	312	316
G0WAZ	JUL-95	87	87	307	314	310	317
G4AZN	MAR-96	269	275	298	306	309	318
G3NKC	NOV-95	279	282			309	313
G0KIK	MAR-96			306	310	307	311
GM4XLU	NOV-95			306	309	306	309
G3EZZ	JUL-95	301	314	184	188	301	314
G3SWH	NOV-95	295	299			295	299
G3NOH	MAR-96	292	296			292	296
G3XMZ	NOV-95					291	
G3PMR	MAR-96	265	269	226	230	281	285
G3KWK	NOV-95					276	290
GM0EGI	MAR-96			257	261	257	261

*Note that CW contacts dated prior to January 1st 1975 count only for mixed mode credit, and not for CW credit.



This is a reproduction of the Honor Roll Chaser certificate sponsored by G4DYO. The certificate, which is A4-size and printed multi-coloured on heavy paper, is available to CDXC members, both at home and abroad, who are not yet on Honor Roll who have worked 270 or more countries on the DXCC Current Countries List..

Details of how to qualify for one of these fine certificates were published in the January 1996 Newsletter. ***DO NOT apply direct to G4DYO.***

There are are 327 current DXCC countries, following the addition of P5 on October 1st 1995. The qualifying number for Honor Roll is thus 318. On 1st April 1996, BV9 (Pratas) and BS7H (Scarborough Reef) will be added, making a total of 329 current DXCC countries. The qualifying number for Honor Roll will then become 320.

New certificate winners: G4CJY, GM0EGI. Gongratulations to Don, G3NOF who has now worked all 327 current DXCC countries.

DXCC HONOR ROLL September 1995

(From QST January 1996)

This is an extract from the listing showing UK CDXC members only. The total number of UK stations in the listing was 78, which begs the question: Why are 67% of the UK amateurs who are on Honor Roll *not* members of CDXC? No doubt a reasonable percentage of those "outsiders" will have achieved HR by working DXpeditions sponsored, in part, by CDXC. The listing is based on a current country total of 326. The current total on the DXCC List is 329 as P5, BV Pratas and BS Scarborough Reef have been added since the QST list was compiled.

Current Needs	Call	Mixed Current	Mixed All Time	Phone Current	Phone All Time	CW Current	CW All Time
0	G3HCT	326	369				
0	G3KMA	326	360	326	350	326	336
0	G3GIQ	326	358				
0	G3UML	326	356	326	356		
0	GM3BQA	326	355	326	355		
0	G3KDB	326	349			318	325
0	G3ZAY	326	345	324	343		
0	GW4BLE	326	338				
0	GW3ARS	326	337	326	337		
0	G3SNN	326	336	326	334		
0	G3RTE	326	334			324	329
0	G4IUF	326	333				
1	G3HTA	325	353				
1	G3COJ	325	349	318	334		
1	G3MXJ	325	349			318	325
1	G3ZBA	325	347	325	347		
1	G4BUE	325	340				
1	G3XTT	325	333	323	331	319	325
2	G3LNS	324	344				
2	G3TXF	324	342			321	330
3	GM3YTS	323	329			321	327
4	G3FKM	322	370	322	366		
4	G3ALI	322	346				
4	G3VKW	322	336	319	333		
5	G3VXJ	321	326				
7	G3KAA	319	347				
7	G3VIE	319	340				
7	G4DYO	319	332	319	332		
7	G3TMA	319	329				
9	G3PJT	317	320				

BH LICENCEES IN CHINA

UK PacketCluster Network

The following is from IARU Region 3 News:

10M FM BEGINNERS ON THE MAINLAND OF CHINA

One of the major difficulties CRSA (Chinese national ham radio society) is facing is to establish from scratch a reliable examination system in such a large country. The first exams were conducted in July of 1994 in about 30 cities across the country. However, due to crowded mass transportation and expensive hotel accommodations, it is very hard for many amateur radio enthusiasts to find an easy way to take an examination. CRSA realises that to build a complete examination system is a big project, and several years of time will be necessary.

To make more active amateurs during the transient period, CRSA designed the 10 metre FM Amateur Radio Experimental Programme in 1994. After intensive negotiations with the radio authority of China, the State Radio Regulatory Commission, the programme is now on track.

Anyone in China who is interested in amateur radio may join the programme. What they have to do is to learn the regulations and technical basics through self-training, assemble a three-watt 10 metre transceiver from a kit (provided by CRSA), test it, and then apply for a special temporary license which permits them to operate on a single spot frequency of 29.600 MHz with less than 5 watts of RF output from April 1995-April 1996. A special BH prefix is assigned to this special license. 3000 people had registered for entry and purchased transceiver kits and up to 12 July 1995 more than 600 had already been granted their tentative station licences and started operating on the air.

In the morning or lunch hours of most days in early July this year we (IARU) could monitor many excited BH stations making their first QSOs with others 2000 km. away. (There is some QRM) from south east Asia fishing boats and taxis.

CRSA believes that large scale programmes such as the new 10 metre FM QRP experiment are excellent approaches to training and publicising amateur radio in this vast country.

SQUINT CONTEST, ALL UPS NO DOWNS

KC7BNH

Maybe our American cousins have a good idea here for attracting youngsters into the hobby - i.e. participating and fun!?

This contest was a lot of fun to work and to listen to. I am a 16 year old YL and I had a lot of fun listening to all the little kids on the radio. I liked working them, I would love to do more contests with them. I worked about 65 to 70 contacts ages 5 to 15 years old. My four year old sister got on the radio and had a lot of fun talking to other kids her own age. She also loves to be in the shack and listen to my dad and I operate. This is a great contest to help get people interested in the hobby. My best friend, Sandra got on the radio for the first time. She loved it. Before the contest she was very nervous about getting on the radio and talking to anyone but now when she spends the night at my house she drags me out of bed early in the morning and drags me to the shack to operate. She has so much fun and now she's not so worried about getting on the radio. Now, she's studying for her licence, which will be a great way to stay in touch when she moves away later this year. Now if only I could get my brother on the radio. Can't wait for the next one!!

73 de Alexis Landmeier/KC7BNH

INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY

20th April -1996

Award Information

The Cornish Radio Amateur Club offer a Special Award Certificate for working International Marconi Day Stations. The award classes and required standards to achieve are summarised in the appendix concerning the Award Classes.

Operation in 1996 will take place for the 24 hours of Saturday April 20th from 0000 to 2359 UTC on all HF Bands with the main mode of operation being SSB, however, all modes are permitted and actively encouraged .

All award claims should be made in writing giving a full extract of your log and your callsign and address please [often forgotten!] Entries to:- Sue Thomas GOPGX, Cornish Radio Amateur Club, I.M.D. Awards Manager, P.O.Box 100, TRURO, Cornwall TR11RX

Cost

For all classes of award the cost is the same: $10.00 U.S. or £4.00 Sterling or 12 IRC'S

Please note the following :-Only one contact with each participating IMD Special Event Station will count towards the award. The Award is NOT CUMULATIVE contacts made in previous or subsequent years with an IMD Station WILL NOT COUNT towards the award. The required number must be worked during the SAME 24 Hour Period.

The list of participating stations is provisional and should be used as a guide only. The stations marked with a "*" have not yet confirmed operation on April 20th although we expect them to be in operation on the day.

CT1TGM	COIMBRA,PORTUGAL
DA0IMD	BORKUM ISLAND
E121MD	CROOKHAVEN,EIRE*
E13MFT	LETTERFRACK*
E131MD	DUBLIN BAY*
E141MD	CLIFDEN GALWAY*
E14JAM	DUBLIN
EI5IMD	CORK
EIGYXQ	BALLYBUNNION
GB0MAR	PUCKPOOL IOW*
ED71MD	CADIZ.S SPAIN
GB11MD	LEICESTER
GB0IMD	ALUM BAY I.O.W
GB21MD	3
GX0MWT	CHELMSFORD
GB2MID	SANDBANKS POOLE
GB2GM	POLDHUCOVE
GB41MD	TRURO [CRAC STN]
GB2MDI	PEPPERBOX HILL
GB4MD	OLD CARNARFON STN
GB2SFL	S.FORELAND L'HOUSE *
GB4MPC	CULLERCOATES
GBAIAM	ISLE OF WIGHT
GB1001MD	RSGB POTTERS BAR
GB4MDI	LAVERNOCK POINT
IY0TCI	CIVITAVECCHIA
IY0GA	SARDINIA ISLAND
IY4FGM	PONTECHIO'
IYOORP	ROCCA DI PAPPA,ROME*
K1W/IMD	CAFE COD MASS
IYITTM	SESTRI LEVANTE
OE1M	VIENNA
IY1MR	RAPALLO,GENOVA*
PR1MD	RIO DE JANEIRO*
KKGH/IMD	MARSHALL CA *
PT1MD	RIO DE JANEIRO*
PQ1MD	RIO DE JANEIRO*
PV1MD	RIO DE JANEIRO*
PS1MD	RIODEJANEIRO*
PX1MD	RIO DE JANEIRO*
PU1MD	RIODEJANEIRO*
NW2 P	SOMERVILLE N.J*
PW1MD	RIO DE JANEIRO*
ZW1USK	RIO DE JANEIRO*
ZW1TTO	RIO DE JANEIRO*
ZSGIMD	JOHANNESBURG*
VE1IMD	GLACE BAY N.S
VK2IMD	WAHROONGA NSW
VO1IMD	ST JOHNS NFD *

At the time this list was compiled (4

February) confirmations have been received from 29 of the regular participating IMD groups around the world. It is early days at the present time and we fully expect most of the remaining stations to confirm participation prior to the date of the event

In 1995 in excess of 400 Award Certificates were issued to claimants and it is our aim to have as short a turn around time as possible to get the awards to you in the least possible time. However Sue, our awards manager does have a life after Amateur Radio and at times work commitments can mean slight delays. Please be patient, the delay will be as short as possible and certainly in weeks rather than months. As in previous years award information will be placed onto the Packet Network at regular intervals so keep an eye out there for further developments.

I0KHP is in contact with a friend in Japan and we hope to have a station operational from that area soon. We expect the Rio Stations to appear on the day although confirmation has not been received yet. In 1995 confirmation arrived in the post on the Day of the event! Human nature being the way it is there is always an aversion to completing any paperwork until the very last minute, a trait we all can identify with to some degree I'm sure !

Award Classes.

This year the event will take place on Saturday April 20th being the nearest Saturday prior to Marconi's actual birth date. As in previous years the event will run for a full 24 hours from 0000 to 2359 UTC and will take place on all HF Bands with all modes of communication encouraged. There will be the usual number of High Profile official participating groups representing former Marconi operating locations for you all to work/log to enable the special award to be claimed from the Cornish Radio Amateur Club. The certificate is of a very high quality and is well worth obtaining to display on the wall of any Shack. It is based on an original Marconi Stock Certificate Circa 1901 and is offered this year under the following categories:-

1. TRANSMITTING AMATEUR To work 15 of the official participating groups on two way communication. Mixed Modes permitted.

2. TRANSMITTING AMATEUR - MOBILE [New category]. To work 12 of the official participating groups on two way communication. Mixed Modes permitted.

3. TRANSMITTING AMATEUR - CW. [New category]. To work 15 of the official participating groups on two way communication using CW only.

4. TRANSMITTING AMATEUR - DIGITAL MODES To work 15 of the official participating groups on two way communication using Digital Modes only [e.g. AMTOR/PACTOR/RTTY/AX25/ ASCII]

5. TRANSMITTING AMATEUR - MULTI OPERATOR A change for Clubs/Groups to take part and gain the award by working 20 of the official participating groups on two way communication. Mixed modes permitted or either CW or Digital with also 20 contacts.

6. SHORTWAVE LISTENERS To log two way communications made by 15 of the official participating groups. Mixed modes permitted.

7. SHORTWAVE LISTENERS - CW [New category]. To log two way communications made by 10 of the official participating groups using CW only.

As in previous years we suggest that all Transmitting Amateur Stations log the two way contacts heard between IMD stations they fail to make a two way contact with as it would be possible for them to claim the SWL award using a combination of heard and worked contacts.

DSP CORNER

From GI0OTC:

OPTIMUM AUDIO SETTINGS FOR THE TS-870

Having lived with the TS-870 for about three months, and with the help of Bob, G4LVQ, and Lee VK2ANS, and some quite lengthy QSOs, we have come up with the following audio settings. The 870 has two separate user menus, 'A' and 'B'.

I have set up the 'A' menu for DX audio, i.e. lots of high frequencies and restricted audio bandwidth. Menu 'B' is set up with more bass and low frequencies, and a wider audio bandwidth, making it a lot more pleasant for local chats.

Below is a list of optimised settings for DX or local type QSOs. My microphone is a Heil HC-5 insert in an old Airlite headset, and these settings are based on using that. The comments I received when the microphone supplied with the rig was tested convinced me to put it back in the box!

There are 68 different settings within each menu, so there is plenty of scope to customise the TS-870 for all operating modes.

I use Turbolog 3, and before it would "talk" to the rig, setting no 56 in both menus had to be changed from the default of 9600 baud and one stop bit, to 4800 baud and two stop bits. In TL, the rig type was selected as a TS-950; none of the other Kenwood rig types available in TL worked with the TS-870. This set up runs well, at least until John Linford, G3WGV can add the TS-870 to the rig list.

Like most of you, I enjoy working DX, and especially cracking pile-ups. Since the 870 arrived, I've been pile-up busting without my amplifier, just for fun. So I can confirm that the DX setting in menu 'A' really works!

	Menu A	Menu B
No. 25	3	0
No. 26	6	0
No. 29	2600 Hz	3000 Hz
No. 30	300 Hz	100 Hz
No. 31	H	B

Good DSPing. 73 Alan Doherty, GI0OTC

From G4RKO:

TECHNICAL TIPS FOR THE FT-1000MP

By default, many of the advanced performance features of the FT-1000MP are turned off when the transceiver first comes out of its box. A few simple changes to several of the menu items will drastically enhance the performance of the radio on both transmit and receive, as well as your operating pleasure. Most of the changes, described below, take effect in receive mode when the EDSP button is engaged, and for the most-part, are controlled by the contour knob.

Holding the FAST key while pressing the ENTER key will place the FT- 1000MP in the menu selection mode. Page 85 of the operating manual will instruct you as to the use of the knobs and display for changing the menu items. Don't panic if you get it all wrong! You can return all the transceiver menu settings to their default values, at any time, by performing a menu reset. Simply depress the '29/o' key while turning the transceiver on.

The following list is a suggested starting point to get things up and running. A few minor changes to this guideline may need to be made to suit your personal preferences.

Menu selection:

1-3 MAIN VFO TUNING STEP SIZE, set this for 0.625 and use the shuttle jog for coarse or high speed tuning. CW ops will appreciate this setting when the narrow EDSP CW filters are selected (outlined later).

4-4 TX EDSP, change this from OFF to a setting of 2. This microphone equalisation

position generally sounds best when using the hand microphone supplied with an averagely deep male voice.

7-7 EDSP MODULATION SSB TX, change this from OFF to a setting of 200- 3100. Again, this will brighten the average deep or husky voice by rolling off the very low frequency response.

2-9 IF NOTCH MODE, set this to AUTO. This will allow normal IF notching with the IF notch control when the notch button is engaged. It will also allow the EDSP system to provide notch-filtering of multiple heterodynes automatically whenever the EDSP key is engaged.

7-7 EDSP DEMODULATION SSB RX, change this from OFF to 300-2800. This will narrow the audio bandwidth nicely. Further tailoring will be outlined later in menu item 4-5.

7-7 EDSP DEMODULATION CW RX, change this from OFF to 100-3100. Again, further tailoring will be outlined later in menu item 4-5.

7-7 EDSP DEMODULATION AM RX, change this from OFF to 70-3800. As above, further tailoring will be outlined in menu item 4-5.

4-5 EDSP FILTERS. The following 5 steps allow you to 'shape' filters to match your own hearing and personal preferences. As the filters remain active while in the menu mode, you can hear the effect of any changes being made, so it is best to make changes while listening to a QSO.

For the following settings, be sure to have the EDSP key engaged and the contour control set to the "Band Pass Filter" position. The mode key for the mode being adjusted must also be selected.

SSB LPF, generally around 2400 Hz will sound best for most operators. This will reduce any high frequency hiss and whines. Adjust for personal preference.

SSB HPF, a setting between 200-300 Hz is a good starting point for most operators This will roll off the low frequency response and distortion.

CW BPF, these EDSP CW filters are very sharp and narrow and behave exactly like the conventional filters in the radio. If you are unfamiliar with very narrow CW filters start with the widest (240 Hz) filter setting. The extremely fine (0.625) VFO resolution, as set in menu item 1-3, will assist when tuning these narrow filters.

AM LPF, (be sure you are in the AM mode), a setting of 2400 Hz as previously set for sideband is a good starting point.

AM HPF, usually a setting between 200-300 Hz is a good starting point for most operators. This will roll off the low frequency response and any distortion on SWL signals.

These settings are the suggested starting points for the advanced features of the EDSP system. Once you become familiar with the menu system you will find many other features that can be tailored to enhance your operating performance and pleasure.

These few extra steps are well worth the time when you initially set up the radio. You will find the ability to reduce noise, auto-notch heterodynes, and select EDSP filtering simultaneously, will reveal a stunning level of performance found only in the FT-1000MP. Have fun!!.

Barry Cooper, G4RKO Yaesu UK Limited

Ed: The following comments were made in response to a request by G3NKC on Packet Cluster for info on the new rigs.

From: G3MCS

I have had the 775DSP for about 5 months now and am very please. I traded in my old FT1000. I find the dual watch facility very good and far superior to the FT1000 which I

always had problems with on the 2nd RX .when trying to engage it's functions. The 775 is much easier and has superior other facilities. I also understand that there is to be a replacement for the 950 on the stocks in JA .

From: G4UJS

The MP looks very nice I had a good play with it at Windsor, and liked it. I have a FT1000, the dual RX on the original 1000 is much better because you can actually tune 2 bands at once whereas the MP can only do split tune in same band.

From: G0SWG

The Feb. '96 edition of Ham Radio Today, contains an unfortunately short review of the Kenwood offering (TS-870). I think the review may be of interest is because it DOES at least contain the technical specs of the '870, as well as some comments by the reviewer.

From: EI6FR

Last weekend myself, EI2GX, EI3HA, GI0KOW and GI0NWG got several radios on air together at Rob GI0KOW's QTH. We had the following on the bench FT1000MP, TS870, TS850s (with all filters) and Icom 736. I won't bore you with all the details but summarise as follows The Icom 736 matched up very well against the 870 despite only having PBT and no DSP. I listened on 40m to a weak VK and found that yes, the 870 DSP system did remove noise but made the audio less easy to listen do than the 736 with accompanying noise. Up against the TS850s with all filters installed we could find no real difference. Ergonomically the 850 is far superior, and lastly the 870 is an ugly radio (general consensus) to look at. As for the MP, well it is simply outstanding in the opinions of those that were present, only fault is the display (some bleed through from unillumiated indicators),but can be cured with a piece of orange sticky back plastic. I've read the reviews of the 870 in CQ mag/HRT etc. - unlike the reviewers we never managed to get a signal to spring 'magically from the noise'. However the combination of DSP and cascaded xtal filters in the MP certainly worked very very well. As for dual receive, well it has its uses but as it's only dual receive in a single band I'd tend to think that for a contester better to have a pair of 850s or 990s on the desk. Yes I can confirm that the 1000MP is only dual band within the particular passband. However as 10m and 15m use the same passband filter it is possible to listen on 10 and 15 at the same time. However to the best of my knowledge this is the only case where such conditions apply. Even the FT1000D needs an optional and expensive extra to allow it to dual band RX

From: G3NOH:

I had an FT1K ever since it came out & was very happy with it, after a few teething problems. A couple of months ago I changed it for an Icom IC-775DSP mainly because the latter was a gnats more sensitive. However, I have found one big snag with the 775 when compared with the 1K. On the 1K, it is possible to listen on 160 when operating on 10 which cannot be done on the 775 because of the use of a common IF in the latter.

From: G3VXJ

I use an FT1000D, not quite the same as you are looking at but... A point I think worth considering if you work CW DX is that you may want to listen very narrow to the DX channel (say less than 200 Hz) yet listen wider on the split channel (say 500 Hz) so you can hear which station the DX takes and hence how he is tuning. The IC775 only gives you a single IF path so you cannot do this - and I think you cannot use the FT1000MP DSP on one channel only (although its conventional filters allow you different widths on both channels). I have found dual RX a great boon - go for it!

From: G3OZF

I've had my MP since the beginning of November, so have had a chance to get used to it. Prior to that, I had the FT1000 (still have it)

and before the FT1000, I had a TS930. Like you, I suspect, I though the 930 was magic, and it is significant that whilst I had the old FT1000 I did not sell the TS930. I was never totally happy with the FT1000. The TX is fine - beefy, reliable and, with Heil mike, produced good audio. It was capable of overdriving the linear, however, which had to be watched. It was also VERY heavy ! The RX was less satisfactory - out of band intermod performance is good, but I was always disappointed at the close-in intermod - it always seemed to me that there was something in the RX chain after the first IF filters that was operating non-linearly, and producing a lot more "hash" than should have been. Comparisons with the TS930 on the same antenna were very telling - the 930 was superior in terms of in-band non-linearity. The FT1000MP is different matter. The in-band problem has gone, and the RX feel unstressed and unflustered. The transmitter is only 100 watts, but in return, you get no linear overdriving, and a rig you can actually pick up without getting a hernia (switch-mode power supply helps here). Computer interfacing with the various software is gradually getting fixed - John has done a great job with Turbolog, and it talks fine to the MP. There is a small problem on CW - a Yaesu software problem, which means that you can't select an option to set the selectivity to 250 Hz when going to a CW spot. It defaults to 500 Hz - even though the CAT should be able to set 250 Hz. Not a big problem - you can then select the 250 Hz manually if you wish. With K1EA's CT programme (9.27) there is still a problem with the RIT. As long as you keep the IRT off, the CAT works fine. But if you switch IRT in, the computer reads the wrong frequency from the rig, with the error increasing as the RIT offset is increased! Ken is aware of this problem, and I suspect 9.28 will fix it. The key issue is the RX performance of the MP. I have all the filters in mine, and find it very clean. The mechanical filters don't have the shape factor of the old CW filters in the FT1000D, but are adequate (this only affects CW 500 Hz). The DSP is interesting. The auto-notch is amazing, taking out several carriers on SSB at the touch of a button. It is so sharp that if you use it on CW, it removes the CW, but leaves any chirp or clicks! The selectivity on the DSP is useful - again particularly on CW, with the 60Hz bandwidth being amazing if you get a DX station hiding under a European on 40m. As long as there is 50-60 Hz frequency difference, you can remove the offending station! I'm not convinced yet about the DSP value on SSB - I think there is more technology development in DSP to really get value from DSP on SSB. The auto-tuner on the TX is VERY fast, taking about 250ms to match the antenna when it's reasonable impedance. Weird matches take a little longer. The facilities to configure the rig via a set of software instructions which are simple to enter, mean that you can personalise the rig easily, but also mean that, for once, you MUST read the instruction manual! Otherwise you will miss out on some very useful facilities, which are not evident if you just turn the rig on. So you can see I am a fan. Downsides? I think the LCD display is a bit cluttered. They have packed a lot into the display, and there is a problem in a poorly lighted room, in that you can see the unlit elements of the display faintly in the background. This makes recognition of all the data a bit slow for the brain. The split problem I referred to is clearly a software fault, but is not really a problem, as there LEDs which are also buttons, for TX and RX above each VFO knob. To "unsplit" you just have to hit the TX LED on the main VFO. But the "Split" button does not toggle as it should, on one of the split modes. I also saw a note on the cluster yesterday that there is a fault in the wiring info in the manual which describes the connections to the "Packet" DIN socket on the MP. I haven't experienced this myself. Sounds as if they have drawn a diagram wrongly.

From: GW4BLE:

After a few days of working with the FT1000MP I am impressed! The radio "feels" right, it has a large, comfortable tuning dial and the switches are strong and in the right position. May sound odd to describe, but is ergonomically sound. With the DSP switched on, the radio noticeably is positive. There are MANY (80+ ?) options to set on it's menu.

RSGB IOTA AWARDS PROGRAMME

Ed: The following is the full text of a recent RSGB press release.

THE RSGB IS VERY SUPPORTIVE of the Islands on the Air (IOTA) programme, and has been most impressed to observe its growth in recent years. The Society wishes to give full recognition to IOTA and to establish, in due course, an new IOTA Committee as a Full Committee of the Society. The recent growth of IOTA has been very significant and is undoubtedly placing unreasonable demands on those involved in the administration of the programme. The Society will in future handle all administration. This will free up members of the new IOTA Committee to concentrate on strategic and technical matters.

In order to facilitate this move we have decided to disband the existing IOTA committee. This committee is in fact a working group and is a sub-committee of the Society's HF Committee. An IOTA Transition Group (IOTATG) under the joint chairmanship of Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, and the Society's General Manager, Peter Kirby, G0TWW, is to manage the transfer of the IOTA administration to the Society's headquarters. Mrs. Eva Telenius-Lowe has been appointed HQ IOTA Co-ordinator.

The Society is most grateful to all members of the IOTA Committee for their past support and contribution, especially Roger Balister, G3KMA, whose unstinting hard work and enthusiasm over the past 11 years is much responsible for the growth and popularity of the programme world-wide. The Society is delighted that Roger has accepted the position of RSGB IOTA Manager, and will continue to manage the programme on a day-to-day basis alongside the HQ IOTA Co-ordinator and the IOTA Committee.

As a result of the action of the Society, the future of the RSGB IOTA programme is now assured. The Society is confident that the programme will continue to grow in popularity and take its place as one of the leading amateur radio awards in the world. All future correspondence and enquiries regarding the IOTA programme should be addressed to the RSGB IOTA Programme, PO Box 9, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3RH, England.

3V8BB LETTER FROM JI1HUC

UK PacketCluster Network

I recently received the following letter from Osamu Ikeuchi JI1HUC in Tunisia. Osamu is one of the operators at 3V8BB; I worked him on RTTY and he had also seen my articles in HRT Magazine (G0UCT had left some copies at the 3V8BB station).

Osamu wrote in French, so what follows is my less than fluent translation of his less than fluent French, but may be of interest nevertheless. Don G3XTT

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Before 1963 the French military, who administered Tunisia, controlled amateur radio activities. Subsequently there were expeditions by French, Italian, American, English and other amateurs. In 1980 3V8AA was very active. And before 1985 3V8PS, perhaps licensed by the police. DXCC recognised those stations active up to 1985. From then on no valid stations were active.

In 1994, the Ministry of Communications authorised the establishment of amateur radio stations at Tunisian establishments which were colleges, schools and universities.

The Higher Business School for Youth & Culture of Bir-el-Bey was given a licence on 6th September 1994. The first operation was on 19th November 1994, by JH2CFD,

JF2EZA, JR2RVL, JL2OYI and myself. The first QSO was with EA1KK, followed by RX4HW and others. The first Japanese contact was with JA2TBS, and then JA9AA.

My Japanese friends understood that this was my project, and co-operated in helping me set up a station. My vision was to set up an electronics club, and see lots of stations becoming active, with the students understanding amateur radio and becoming skilled in electronics.

A year passed, but unfortunately there was still only one station. It seemed that the Ministries no longer supported amateur radio.

Young Tunisians enjoy amateur radio. For example, there is an Internet server in Tunisia. There is great enthusiasm for the Internet, as in other countries. I discovered this in May 1995. Just look at:

gopher@avicenne.rnrt.tn

which is at the Regional Institute of IT and Telecommunications. This is the prime Internet site in Tunisia.

Amateur radio is also a communications medium, but is no longer making progress. When foreign operators come to 3V8BB they often encounter problems. My hope is that visitors will help the morale, and build good relations with the students. After all, foreigners visit the Medina, the Mosques, the museums of Carthage and other tourist areas. And then some wish to visit the station 3V8BB. Why not? Amateur radio is a sport, a hobby, isn't it?

After a year 3V8BB is no longer rare.

The confusion surrounding the QSL managers:

Foreign operators JH2CFD, JF2EZA, JL2OYI, JR2RVL, JA2PDQ (twice), G0UCT, HA3JB, DL8SDC, YT1AD (3), F6ASS (2), DJ7IK, DL8OBC, DL2OBF and myself have operated 3V8BB.

QSL via?

JI1HUC via JF2EZA
DJ7IK, DL8OBC, DL2OBF via DL2OBF
YT1AD via YT1AD
Students, to 3V8BB (Mr. ___ ops. name), Isajec de Bir-el-Bey, Tunisia

It is necessary to listen to the operator information at the time of the QSO. I have asked the students to be conscientious about QSLing.

3V8BB is authorised to operate on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2m and 70cm, all modes, with a maximum power of 100 watts.

What is needed in Tunisia?

I do not believe it is equipment.

There is a lack of general information on amateur radio. "What is a radio amateur?" "How does one get started?" There is little knowledge. After all, there has only been one station in recent years. Therefore the biggest need is to make information available. There are many stations in other countries. In Tunisia the people will decide for themselves.

For the future, there is a need for videos, books and magazines. Videos can provide general background, books can cover theory and the rules, while magazines cover practical matters and news. These are the same needs as in emerging countries.

For myself, my three years in Tunisia come to an end in March 1996. Perhaps a subsequent volunteer will take over my role in encouraging the radio club. For myself, I am a member of "Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers", which is similar to the US Peace Corps or the English VSO.

Best 73 de JI1HUC, BP 764, 1080 Cedex Tunis, Tunisia

EMERGENCY EMERGENCY

G0HXN Dave Mann

In 1988 myself and three other local amateurs were taking part in the RSGB Field Day Contest. All was going well with the Q's racking up with quite a substantial multiplier total. We had just switched over to 15 for the South Americans who were just coming in and had worked several Brazilian stations when a very strong Chilean Station came in calling "Emergency, Emergency, any station near London". This call went unanswered for several minutes and we made the decision to answer the call "JUST IN CASE".

A very relieved Doctor in Santiago took our reply that we were only some 25 miles from London. He was in urgent need of a piece of medical equipment to save the life of a newly born child. This equipment was unobtainable in Chile, and the manufacturer was in South London. Could we contact the firm of and ask them to send the equipment over, he was sure the Chilean Embassy would pay. All he had was a name, and it was made in Wimbledon. We replied that we would do our best to relay the message onwards. He resolved to stay on the frequency until such time as we came back to him.

Needless to say Saturday afternoon approaching early evening was not the best time for anything in the Capital. Our first thought was "What do we do now?". We immediately thought of the Foreign Office where we knew there would be a duty officer. "Ring the Chilean Embassy" was the curt reply. Which we did "Sorry everybody out, try the Red Cross as the President's wife is the Red Cross liaison for Chile". The International Red Cross "Sorry, we can't do anything unless authorised by the President's wife". Needless to say the President's wife was in Chile!

"Lets try the papers" said one of the weary operators. Luckily we had a mobile with us and rang my XYL to see if she could rustle up any help from the Nationals, whilst we tried the Locals.

By this time an hour had gone by, was he still there? A quick call and a solid 59 contact. We explained what was going on , and asked if there was a better method of contacting him. He explained that he was at home but had no telephone. But he gave us the number of a friend around the corner.

Whilst this was going on the local paper called all fired up with human interest. We explained what had happened and passed all the details over to them. By this time the contest was a thing of the past so we reluctantly started to pack up keeping the rig going to the last minute.

Suddenly our phone rang. It was the local paper to tell us that they would fund the cost of the equipment, and dispatch it forthwith. They had been in telephone contact with Chile to confirm the details. By this time propagation had changed and our Chilean Doctor had disappeared.

A week later a QSL card arrived with a lovely letter from the child's parents to say that the equipment had arrived in time thanking all concerned. We, as you can imagine, felt fairly chuffed even though we didn't finish the contest. A phone call was made to the RSGB on the Monday following the event just to enquire about exactly what we should have done, to be told very abruptly that 3rd party traffic was not allowed under the terms of our licence.

It was interesting to see though that some several months later the newspaper article with many other was used by the RSGB in RadCom to show that "Amateurs save lives".

I still don't know what to do!!! Do you ??

CDXC ANNUAL DINNER

Neville's Chairman's Talk

Welcome everyone, a particular welcome to the ladies.

The Club has had another good year. Membership is now around 250, it has doubled in the past two years.

We are now planning to target all British Isles DXCC members -- we have a new Prospectus -- I hope you like it and that it sells the Club well -- It will be circulated with the March Newsletter later this month. The Newsletter will be a little later than normal due to Alan's work commitments. Our thanks to Bren for his help with the Prospectus. Thank you Bren.

Alan wishes to pass over the Editorship this year after four years in post. He's done an excellent job and will be quite an act to follow. If anyone is interested please give Alan a call for a briefing. Thank you Alan for your support for the past four years.

We also hoping that the Club will adopt a new Constitution. The old one was somewhat dated. The draft will be printed in the March Newsletter and I hope that we can adopt this at an Extraordinary General Meeting in July. Thanks to Dave our Secretary for his work on the new Constitution. Also thanks to Dave for organising this evening's dinner. Thank you Dave.

We have a corner of the Yaesu stand at Picketts Lock next weekend thanks to Barry. Here we will have the new Club Prospectus and some IOTA brochures. I will be there all weekend, Dave will be there on Sunday. If any Member is going, do look in -- perhaps they could man the stand for a short period! Thanks to Barry also for the raffle prizes this evening. Thank you Barry.

The next social occasion with be the Summer Social on Saturday 6 July. We are planning to hold this again at our home at Felden and Trish and I would be delighted to see you all there. The Social will be preceded by the AGM and the special EGM to consider and hopefully adopt the new Constitution. Let's hope for good weather again!

I'd also like to say thanks to Trish for her support. Trish does a lot of typing for the Club and also does the distribution of the Newsletter. Thank you Trish.

So to a our talk this evening. Vincent is going to talk about the recent Easter Island DXpedition. Vincent really needs no introduction having participated in some of the mega DXpeditions of recent years. Easter Island should be of particular interest because of the technology used. Vincent -- over to you.

CHILTERN DX CLUB DRAFT CONSTITUTION

1. NAME:

The Club shall be known as *The Chiltern DX Club* (The UK DX Foundation).
This is abbreviated to *CDXC*
The Club will be affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain.

2. AIMS

The aim of the Club is to promote HF operation, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or by whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open, subject to the discretion of the Committee, to all persons interested in the aims of the

Club, and who have worked or heard a minimum of 100 DXCC countries.
New members must normally be proposed by at least two existing members of the Club. Where this is not possible all applications will be considered by the Committee.

Membership will be:

a) Full member

b) Honorary Membership may be granted to any person who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered outstanding service to Amateur Radio, either directly or indirectly. Such membership shall not carry any voting rights, and will be free from any subscription.

All members will abide by the constitution of the Club. The Committee shall have the power to expel any member whose conduct in the opinion of the Committee renders that person unfit to be a member of the Club. No member shall be expelled without first having been given the opportunity to present their case to the Committee.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual subscriptions for membership shall be set by the Committee and agreed at the AGM.
All subscriptions will be due on the 1st of July, and payable by the 30th October at the latest, after which membership will be deemed to have lapsed.
The financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March.
For new members joining between 1st January and 30th June, only half the annual subscriptions will be payable for that membership year.

5. FINANCE

All monies received by the Club shall be properly deposited in the Club's bank account. Withdrawals require the signature of the Club's treasurer or other nominated officers of the Club.
The account shall be audited annually.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Club's affairs shall be administered by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee, in whom the Club's property shall be vested, shall consist of:

i) A President

ii) A Chairman who will preside at all meetings at which he is present.
In the absence of the Chairman he shall nominate another member of the committee to act as Chairman.

iii) A Secretary who will be responsible for:

a) Keeping the minutes of the formal meetings.
b) Ensuring that all correspondence is properly handled.
c) Dispatching joining pack to all new members.
d) Any other duties as designated by the Committee.
e) Maintaining a master roll of the Club's equipment.

iv) A Treasurer who will be responsible for:

a) Keeping the Club's accounts.
b) Advising the Committee on financial affairs
c) Preparing the accounts for audit and presentation at the AGM.

v) The NewsLetter Editor who will, of right, be a full member of the Committee.

vi) Not more than two co-opted members who will have full voting power. Further co-opted members who

will not have voting powers.

vii) A Vice Chairman may be appointed from time to time, but may hold another position on the Committee.

viii) Every year all committee members shall resign at the Annual General Meeting and, if they so wish, be eligible for re-election.

7. COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS

a) A quorum for the Committee shall be four. In the absence of a quorum, business shall be dealt with, but any decisions taken only become valid after ratification at the next meeting at which a quorum exists or by correspondence.

b) Committee meetings may be called by the Chairman, the Secretary or by any three full members of the Committee.

c) All full members of the Committee may vote. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman has a second casting vote.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held between 1st May and 1st August. Notice in writing must be given at least 28 days before AGM

b) The quorum for the AGM shall be 10 or 25% of the membership which ever is least.

c) The agenda for the AGM shall include:

i) Apologies for absence
ii) Acceptance of the minutes of the previous AGM
iii) Chairman's Report
iv) Secretary's Report
v) Treasurer's Report
vi) Election of new Committee
vii) Election of Auditor
viii) Any other Business

Items i) to v) shall be chaired by the outgoing Chairman, item vi) by an acting Chairman, who is not standing for office, and the remaining business by the newly-elected Chairman.

d) Nominations for Committee members will only be valid if confirmed by the nominee at the meeting or previously in writing.

e) Committee nominations and items for any other business must be notified to the Secretary prior to the start of the AGM.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

a) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or not less than 8 members of the Club. The meeting must be held within 3 calendar months. At least 14 days notice in writing must be given to the Secretary, who in turn shall give the membership at least 28 days notice in writing of the agenda. No other business than that on the agenda may be transacted at an EGM.

b) The quorum for an EGM shall be 10, or 25% of the membership whichever is least.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended only at an EGM called for that purpose.

11. WINDING UP THE CLUB.

a) The decision to wind up the Club can only be made at an EGM.

b) The funds of the Club shall, after the sale of all assets and payment of all outstanding debts, be disposed of as directed by members at the final EGM.

21 February 1996

This months news from Vine

It's official !!!

IOTA CONTEST 1995 - ISLANDS SECTION

- 1st - CS2B - using a Force 12 C-3 Tribander
- Runner up - GW5LP/P - using a Force 12 C-3S Tribander

Also from Force 12 - the solution for HF+40m - the C4XL (C3 + 2el on 40)

- The Dxer 9 el (3el on 20/17/15m) for current band condx.

The antennas that are taking the States by storm - Force 12 - in stock now !

And from our other suppliers

- GemQuads - 20/15/10 with WARC easily added. 2 and 3 element versions available.

- KLM KT34A and KT34XA- Broadband tribanders.

- Telex HyGain rugged tribanders and monobanders

- VHF/UHF high performance Yagis from Eagle Communications.

- Stack Match and Bandpass Filters from Dunestar

- Auto Antenna Switches from Top Ten Devices

- Rotators from HyGain and Yaesu

- Cables, connectors and much more.

Ring us to *talk antennas*. Evenings and weekends are fine ! We can *ALWAYS* provide a solution.

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Email - ron@gw3ydx.demon.co.uk

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DSP-2232

The latest all mode DSP driven TNC from AEA. 9600 & 1200 Packet. All standard HF & VHF modes, two switchable radio ports, plus more.

SPECIAL INTRO PRICE: £479.95

~~RRP £499.95~~

PK-232MBX

Probably the best selling Data Controller in the world, the PK-232MBX is the Radio Modem to choose if you want all modes, including Morse Code, Baudot, (RTTY), Ascii, Amtor/Sitor 476 & 625, Pactor, HF & VHF Packet, B&W Fax tx/rx, Navtex & Amtex. As with the PK-900, the PK-232MBX now includes "SIAM" and is compatible with the popular TCP/IP networking protocol via KISS mode.

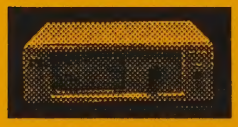
~~RRP £319.95~~

PK-12

The very latest replacement for the PK-88, the tiny PK-12 not only comes with more features, but its cheaper too! The PK-12 is a 1200 baud VHF packet controller ideal for those of you who are looking at getting started in digital communications. Full-featured mail drop facilities including internal lithium battery back-up.

~~RRP £129.95~~

PK-900



When you're ready to step up from the best selling PK-232MBX, then take a look at the PK-900. Dual simultaneous ports, switchable via a single keystroke, will still allow the user to receive two signals at the same time. Internal firmware includes SIAM - Signal Identification & Acquisition Mode, automatically identifying the incoming mode of transmission - takes out the guess work! Add the optional 9600 baud modem and you're satellite ready!

~~RRP £479.95~~

PK-96

Whilst others are still having a five course lunch waiting for 1K of data to transfer, you can enjoy the incredible speed of using a new PK-96 and find yourself with hours of free time on your hands! The PK-96 takes over from where the old PK-88 left off. It comes standard with 1200 baud AFSK tone signalling, as well as 9600 baud G3RUH compatible direct frequency modulation, making the PK-96 an ideal high speed terrestrial, or satellite data controller.

~~RRP £219.95~~

PC-Pakratt for Windows

Operate the entire range of AEA controllers from one package. Run two controllers at once, run other programmes on your PC (in Windows), whilst controlling your data controller. Additional features include seperate windows for mailbox operation, QSO Logging, file transfers and more.

~~RRP £79.95~~

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